

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LIX.]

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BIRTH.

On the 13th May, at 26, the Bund, Shanghai, the wife of J. D. SMART, of a son.

MARRIAGES

On the 11th April, at Durban, F. W. MITCHELL, son of late F. W. MITCHELL, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, to AMY SQUIRE.

On the 10th May, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. A. J. WALKER, A. L. MAUDE SHORT, of Sherbrooke, Canada, to M. D. J. BRADY, Tientsin.

DEATHS.

On the 8th April, at 67, S. Helen's Road, Hastings, JANE B. BROADBENT (née BLISS), wife of JAMES F. BROADBENT.

On the 5th May, at 17, Love Lane, Shanghai, ALBERT REGINALD, infant son of ALBERT WILLIAM and KATHARINE BURKILL.

On the 5th May, at 14, Bubbling Well Road, Shanghai, EDMUND HENRY GORE BOOTH, third surviving son of the late HENRY GORE BOOTH, second son of Sir ROBERT NEWCOMEN GORE BOOTH, third Baronet, of Finadell Co., Sligo, Ireland, aged 58 years.

On the 5th May, at 22, Miller Road, Shanghai, RUFUS F. EASTACK, aged 69 years.

On the 17th May, at the Government Civil Hospital, WILLIAM RALPH SEYMOUR, Junior Assistant Master at Queen's College, aged 31 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press

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ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The English Mail of the 22nd April arrived, per the steamer *Coromandel*, on Thursday the 19th inst.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The war news of the week has been of a most exciting and varied character. For the first time we regret to have serious Japanese naval losses to record. On the 14th inst. the cruiser *Miyako* touched a mine near Talienwan and blew up. Then, after some wild reports about losses of several Japanese warships, the news reached Hongkong through an official despatch to the Japanese Consul yesterday morning stating for certain that the battleship *Hatsuse* 10 miles south-east of Laotishan promontory on the 15th inst. struck a Russian mechanical mine and sank. The Japanese cruisers saved 300 of the *Hatsuse's* crew, including Rear-Admiral Nashiba. Further, the despatch added that the cruiser *Yoshino* in a deep fog off Shantung promontory the same day was struck and sunk by the *Kasuga*, 90 of the crew being saved. Thus in two days Japan lost a battleship and two cruisers. On land, on the other hand, a severe blow has been struck at the Russians: Newchwang has been captured. Port Arthur is completely isolated, and it is reported from Russian sources that the retreat on Harbin has been prevented. A Japanese force is said to have appeared north of Moukden, and a Russian retirement was contemplated; but Japan may have intercepted it. Great developments are now looked for on land.

It is officially notified that China has instructed her representatives to assure the Powers that, come what may, she intends strictly to adhere to neutrality.

The Emperor of China is reported to have been ailing lately, and the Empress Dowager has ordered him to rest, and two Court physicians to attend him.

The Russian Red Cross Society has received a telegram from its principal representative in the Far East testifying to the Japanese care of the Russian wounded at the Yalu.

General Pfung telegraphs that the Japanese advance to Liaoyang is characterised by indecision. He supposes the objective of the principal Japanese forces is a point beyond Haicheng. It is interesting to compare facts above stated.

Reuter's correspondent at Gyantse wired on the 13th inst. that the Lamas were preaching a "Holy War" against the British. Our London correspondent telegraphed on the 18th that the Tibetan forces opposing the British Mission are receiving reinforcements, including two big guns.

The two Japanese executed at Harbin for trying to destroy a bridge were not army officers at all, but they were patriots, says a Japanese paper. Yokokawa Seizo was an adventurous *sushi*, and Oki Teisuke was a teacher of Japanese at Peking, who joined the "Red-beards" at the beginning of the war.

22 more Chinese plague cases, 17 of them fatal, have been reported since our last week's issue. Apart from the 28 plague cases last week (26 fatal), the instances of communicable disease in the Colony were:—Enteric fever 3 (1 European imported from Shanghai, 1 Japanese from Canton); smallpox 2 (Chinese, both fatal).

It is telegraphed from Paris that M. Doumer, President of the Budget Committee, in a speech at a banquet this week, strongly condemned the questionable attitude of some Frenchmen towards the Russian alliance. He said it was impossible for France to side with "yellows" in a struggle between Western and Eastern civilisations.

The *Times of Ceylon* states that Mr. H. C. Nicolle, Local Auditor here until a few months ago, is to be appointed Treasurer of Ceylon, on the retirement of the Hon. H. Cameron, who goes on leave next month and retires three months later. If this be so, Mr. Nicolle's many Hongkong friends will congratulate him heartily while regretting his loss to the Colony.

L'Echo de Chine has a leading article by "X." in which the Russians are consoled for their defeats by being assured that they have all occurred through their undervaluing their enemy. This will now be remedied, and in his concluding paragraph "X." warns the Japanese what they have now to expect:—"The wounded white bear will rise up again more terrible than ever, his fur bristling as he shakes off the few drops of blood which might stain his robe, and throws himself on his prey with little thought of pity as a slight irritation near his heart reminds him of the first bullet he received." This extraordinary outburst will doubtless console Russia for all her losses.

The following note of alarm is sounded in the *P. and T. Times* of the 30th ult.:—Word reached Tientsin yesterday, 29th, from Taianfu, Shantung, giving information regarding a movement that is on foot in that vicinity. The secret societies have joined and formed a union against the Government and against foreigners. The people are leaving their homes in the country for the cities where they believe it will be safer. Members of some Missions who should be starting up about now for the annual meeting in Peking, write that things are in such a condition that they think it best to stand by their work and converts at present. This is the place and district where the Boxer movement began, and where Mr. Brooks was murdered.

We received this week a visit from the Rev. Father F. R. Noval, of the Spanish Procuration, who asks us to point out, with reference to a statement the *Giornale d'Italia*, that it is not true that the Dominican monks have to leave the Philippines "as the result of the agreement between the United States and the Holy See." There is no such agreement. There are still over 200 Dominican Fathers in the Philippines, they have still the College of S. Juan de Letran and the University of S. Thomas in Manila, and are founding two new colleges at Cagayan and Pangasinan. The Dominicans, it is true, will have a new institution in Japan—probably after the war—but not because of expulsion from the Philippines. With regard to the much-abused "Friars," it may be pointed out that the ex-Governor Taft's most noted utterance about them was as follows:—"When I first went to the Philippines, I knew I was among a people almost entirely Catholic, and I quickly learned how much the Friars had done for the Filipinos. I have no hesitation in saying that the world is in these men's debt for Christianising and civilising those Malays, the only Malays ever converted to Christianity."

THE WAR AND INTERNATIONAL POLITICS.

(Daily Press, 17th May.)

Whatever we may think of the rights and wrongs of the present conflict in the Far East, in one respect the various nations in Europe must look upon it as a blessing, even if one in disguise. Till the actual outbreak of the war it was held by most of the European authorities that, hostilities having once broken out between Russia and Japan, the interests involved were of so complicated a nature that they could not be confined to the limits of the Far East, but almost of necessity would kindle the torch of baleful war throughout the plains of Continental Europe itself. The fear and the dread of Russia, which, like the strange fascination said to proceed from the serpent's eyes when pursuing his feathered prey, has been the ruling factor in Continental politics for the last quarter of a century, has apparently shown some symptoms of diminishing virulence, and a disposition to look on things as they really are has been conspicuous during the last few weeks. The altered position of affairs is well shown in the very different manner in which the disorders in the Balkan regions are being treated. At the beginning of the year the strange sight was witnessed of Russia and Austro-Hungary in apparent concord uniting to settle, by force of arms if necessary, the discord prevailing in Bulgaria and Macedonia. It was known to everyone that the main instigator of these troubles was Russia herself. It was also perfectly well known that the German Government, though solemnly talking indifference, was inwardly licking its chops at the distant prospect of blood. More than all this it was known that the quarry really aimed at by these two benevolent Powers was nothing less than the partition of their mutual friend and ally, Austria. The unnatural pact between the two States, Russia and Austro-Hungary, it was felt by all, was only undertaken by the latter Power in the interests of self-preservation; yet of all this intrigue with its various plots and counterplots, the diplomatic world was by a fiction supposed to be entirely ignorant. Ambassadors nodded and embraced, monarchs paid professional visits and spoke of the harmonies; wars and their possibilities were subjects too vulgar to be discussed by the polite. The game of whist or casino went on apparently as merrily as if the parties were seated in the quiet shades of Parnassus; yet after all the mail-clad spectre of war would obtrude itself unasked into the quietest groves of the pretended Elysium, and sometimes, even to the careless players themselves, strange visions of the yawning gulf beneath would unfold themselves.

Now we do not intend to flatter our readers, nor ourselves, by the assertion that all this unrest and carefulness was but the baseless fabric of a dream; for while it lasted it was very real indeed, none the less real that it had never been formulated. When, some three years ago, without any apparent remonstrance from the British Government, approaches commenced to be made between the French and Italian Governments on the basis of both being Latin Powers, prophets of ill were not wanting who saw in the movement a direct menace to British interests, especially in the Mediterranean; better informed, the Government was content to stand by and wait developments. The *rapprochement* was really at the time rather instinctive than deliberately planned; without exactly recognising the cause, both Powers felt that

the position was becoming explosive, and both probably felt that their momentary allies had other schemes in hand than were quite consistent with their professions of disinterestedness. This feeling it was that gradually led France to review her recent attitude towards England. England, it was true, had all along professed her desire to be on more neighbourly terms with France; but so had Germany and Russia. Certain little circumstances had lately come to light of Germany's peculiar methods of aiding her allies, more especially Prince BISMARCK's secret understanding with Russia about a possible partition of Austria, then her nominal ally. France, any more than England and Italy, could not but see in these flirtations a source of embarrassment, if not danger to herself, and the suspicions aroused were certainly not diminished when she saw Russia, her own special ally, without consulting her, entering into schemes for settling the ever vexed Balkan tangle. When, therefore, it was unofficially suggested to France that some means could possibly be found for settling some long outstanding disputes with England in which neither party was very deeply interested, and which both had at various times acknowledged were subjects on which either, without affecting their interests or prestige, could give way, France found that the psychic moment had arrived. The time was opportune, and, both sides yielding a little, an understanding eminently satisfactory to both was soon arrived at, and the long outstanding grievances were quickly removed, and in Lord ROSEBURY'S words, both commenced with a clean slate.

Meanwhile Russia had been pushing her pretensions in the Far East in such a manner and with such language that the Western Powers most interested in the great Eastern trade could not fail to see a challenge; and this feeling of uneasiness was doubled by the evident acquiescence of Germany, who, under pretence of an indifference entirely contrary to her usual practice, professed not to see any danger in the advances of Russia, which had within the last two years entirely altered the relations towards Europe of Eastern Asia. It is certain that, from whatever cause, the Imperial family of Germany are under some curious spell in their relations with Russia; we would scarcely like to stigmatise it as fear, but to all outward appearance it very much resembles it. If not fear, the spell must of course proceed from some equally unworthy source. On either supposition we may account for the very marked change that has come over the scene since the morning of the 10th February last. If the feeling were attributable to fear, the events of the last three months have shown how slender was its foundation; if to other causes, the progress of events proves how little useful would be Russia's assistance were Germany to be brought into hostile contact with the other Continental Powers. Fortunately both these conditions make for peace. Germany, now that she has driven the other Continental Powers into the arms of England, is little likely of herself to seek a ground of quarrel, while Russia has shown such extreme unpreparedness in her fight with Japan that she is hardly likely to be accepted by the other as an eligible ally in her ambitions towards the empire of the world.

The writer of "Topics for the Times" in the *Shanghai Mercury* says:—"As I write the weather is everything that could be desired for the opening of the cricket season. I hope to see some good new blood in both the senior clubs. We have to recover certain 'ashes' from the south." Well, Hongkong will be quite ready when the weather permits.

PROGRESS OF THE WAR.

(Daily Press, 18th May.)

The disaster suffered by the Japanese near Talienwan on Saturday, as announced in our Kobe correspondent's telegram and confirmed by the Japanese Consul's despatch, is the severest blow to the Japanese fleet during more than three months of warfare. No damage has been inflicted by the Russians at all equivalent to the sinking of the *Miyako* while destroying Russian mines. Though the loss of life was little—the total casualties were eight—much sympathy will be felt with Japan on the sinking of a modern and rapid, if small, cruiser. The incident well illustrates the enduring menace of submarine mines, even when their position is more or less known, as must have been the case on Saturday; for the Japanese flotilla successfully found and destroyed five mines in all, though under the fire of a Russian battery. The catastrophe serves to remind us of what appears to be a grave danger to neutrals in northern waters. We are told that the Russians have evacuated Newchwang, taking away their guns, but leaving the mines in the Liao River. We have no indication whether the Japanese intend to occupy Newchwang or not. If they do, of course they will find it incumbent to explode the mines. But if they do not take the town, leaving it to revert to its proper position under Chinese control, we may well ask who is going to undertake the duty of rendering the river mouth safe for shipping. If this is not done, we shall see disasters overtaking merchantmen through touching hidden mines, and possibly serious loss of life and property. On land order will have to be maintained either by some of Viceroy YUAN SHI-KAI'S troops, or possibly by detachments from foreign warships. But that question is far more easily settled than that as to how to give trading vessels security against the mines abandoned by the Russians.

The general situation has been slowly but very markedly changing since the battle of the Yalu was fought. The exact point which the advancing Japanese have reached is not known at the present moment, but telegrams received in Shanghai last week indicated that the Russians expected the enemy near Haicheng very shortly, and indeed that their abandonment of Newchwang and its neighbourhood was prompted by the dread of being cut off. The two Japanese armies seem now to be acting in unison, the First pressing on from Fenghwangcheng through the Motienling region, and the Second advancing up the Manchurian railway to Tashihchiao, the junction of the lines to Port Arthur and Newchwang. The next battle may be expected to take place at Haicheng, unless a retreat to Liaoyang rather be thought advisable in view of the danger of an outflanking movement by the Japanese First Army. Further south there is no longer any doubt of the investment of Port Arthur being complete, and though the Russians have not yet admitted that the fleet there is actually "bottled up" it is to be noticed that not a sign of its existence has been given since the last Japanese attempt to close the harbour mouth. Admiral Togo reported last week that explosions were continually being heard from Port Arthur, from which it has been thought that the Russians are destroying the remains of their imprisoned fleet. As for Dalny, it is said to have been completely wrecked by the Russians, to prevent it being of use to Japan. If Port Arthur's fall becomes inevitable, the same policy will most likely be adopted by its

desperate defenders, and the last trace of Russian occupation will then be removed from the Liaotung peninsula. Meanwhile, from the other side of the scene of war, on the eastern coast of Corea, all is curiously still. The Vladivostok squadron has retired from view to its base, and as to what the Japanese are doing or planning in the neighbourhood no news has come to hand for many days. The Western operations apparently engross all Japan's attention. We say "apparently," for the development of the Japanese scheme of war has been so skilfully secret that it would be most foolish to make any definite assertion as to where a blow will next be struck.

BRITISH POLICY AT WEIHAI.

(Daily Press 20th May.)

True to that policy of drift and vacillation which has been the curse of our intercourse with the East generally during the last forty years, the British Government is again exhibiting the lassitude and want of tone which has now become chronic. It is unpleasant to have to repeat the same story from years' end to years' end, yet no sooner has our Foreign Office, by exertions which it would fain have us to believe were superhuman, dragged us out of one difficulty than immediately it almost seems to strive to get mixed up in another. We know the trouble with which the Government has been looking out both ways to obtain some quotable opinion which would appear to justify it in abandoning Weihai, and we also know the difficulties it has encountered in its self-imposed and unpatriotic task. It has been lately whispered that in Sir CYPRIAN BRIDGE it has at last found an Admiral willing to say something which can be alleged in detriment of the place; but as the strong condemnation which they have hinted at has not ever over Admiral BRIDGE's signature been published, it is only reasonable to conclude that the pretended condemnation, doubtless written to order, and accompanied by so many conditions as to confute itself, is too dangerous an instrument to permit of its being published in full; and to publish a portion would only excite worse suspicions. The fact of the matter is that the more the position and capabilities of Weihai, whether as a military, political, or mercantile base, are taken into consideration, the more does the folly and madness of retiring impress itself on any unprejudiced observer.

Weihai was occupied as a counterprise to Russia's seizure of Port Arthur; opposition to her action was ostensibly withdrawn in consequence of Russia's declaration that she only intended to use it as the terminus of her Siberian Railway, and did not mean to fortify it. Well, Russia is still in Port Arthur; she has fortified it to render it, as she thought, at least impregnable. That Russia has got a little unpleasant foretaste of an eventual surrender is probably true; but if she have, it was not through any activity on the part of the British Government, who so far from showing any evidence of activity, on the contrary went down on its knees before Russia and Japan, begging the two in the mildest of language not to quarrel. It is always the unfortunate results of such undignified and old-womanlike conduct to inflame the passions it would appease, and the present is no exception. What would have been the result had our Government taken some more dignified action is of course impossible to say. One thing, however, cannot be called in question: the position could not have been worse than it is to-day, and Great Britain would not have had to stand

in a corner with her finger in her mouth. So far, then, no change has come over the military position, and the occupation of Weihai is as much a matter of moment as ever. Indeed it is probably more so, for the retirement of Great Britain from so advantageous a position, we may be certain, would be followed up by the entrance of some other and more enterprising Power. We have had many instances of late of the worthlessness of the respect paid to their most solemn engagements by the Powers on the Continent; our own Government cannot plead ignorance, for it openly spoke in the Commons of the impossibility of binding a Power like Russia. Is Lord LANSDOWNE sanguine enough to believe that Weihai would be vacant twenty-four hours after the British flag had been hauled down? Politically retirement would be tantamount to declaring ourselves out of the game. Had we never occupied Weihai it would under existing conditions be bad play to accept it, even as a gift. Russia is being called to account for her misdeeds generally, and practically her existence as an empire is being questioned; it would be manifestly impolitic still further to complicate the political tangle. For precisely the same reason it would be in the last degree impolitic to throw into the arena another apple of discord. As the case stands, we hold Weihai: we can employ the influence its holding gives us in the Gulf of Pechili to useful purpose, not only in the general settlement of affairs which must shortly come about, but in the interest of China herself. China is not in a fit frame of mind to be trusted with edged tools; the Dowager Tsz'hi is still occupying the place of the legitimate Emperor, and the Palace ropes are still being manipulated in an alien interest by the Russian Minister at the capital. Weihai and England have yet their mission but half performed; is it a moment to entertain thoughts even of throwing up the sponge?

The third reason against retiring is to mercantile men, and therefore in the eyes of most of our readers, the principal, and that is the commercial. Weihai is in North China the only spot where the benumbing influence of Sir ROBERT HART and, we may add, of Sir JAMES MACKAY is not the law of the land. It affords the one bright spot where manufacturing industry, and the growth of an export trade, are still possible in the interest of China herself; then, no less than in that of the world at large, our continuance at Weihai, not necessarily as a military base, has become a matter of moment. The nominal opening of ports, done for the sole purpose of attracting provincial funds to the capital, there to be wasted, or, worse than wasted, used for the debauchery of the State, is the actuating motive in all these pretended reforms. The real depressing influences are still at work, and the only difference from former conditions is that whereas of old exactions on trade went into provincial treasuries, where the law of demand and supply put a practical limit to suicidal tariffs, they are nowadays concentrated in doctrinaire hands to whom killing taxation, provided only it be carried out by rule and compass, is a thing of joy and beauty. That there is a limit in each case beyond which increase of taxation positively reduces the collection, is a phase of political economy which has never entered into the heart of the Inspector-General to conceive. The lessons of the introduction of the cotton-spinning industry in Shanghai should show our Government how essential in the interests of trade it is to have it unhampered by petty interferences. It

actually pays the manufacturer better to ship his raw material to Japan, have it manufactured with the dearer labour there prevailing, pay double duties, and bring the manufactured goods back to China, than to have his cotton spun on the spot in Shanghai!

It is true that as yet no manufactures, and none but the most petty of trades, have sprung up in Weihai; but whose is the blame? The merchant and the manufacturer are ready to invest their capital, but the shifting, shiftless policy, or rather no-policy of our Government, dabbling on the edge of the stream, one minute putting its foot in the water, only the next to withdraw it in a terror of its own making, has hitherto prevented any advance being made.

HONGKONG'S FIRE-FIGHTING SERVICE.

(Daily Press, 19th May.)

It will have been seen from the report of the meeting of the Legislative Council on Tuesday that the local Government is satisfied with the present means for extinguishing fires in the City of Victoria. At least, in reply to the Hon. H. E. POLLOCK's question whether this were so, the Colonial Secretary said that the means of extinguishing fire was considered "reasonably sufficient." We doubt whether the public will be as satisfied as the Government, in spite of the latter's confidence. We are not in favour of wild outcry on such a subject as our fire-fighting service, and we have only dealt with the subject in the past in a moderate way. Nevertheless we have witnessed not a few fires here in the dry season, and we cannot admit that "reasonable sufficiency" is the best term to apply to our resources against the danger. We know that it is promised that with the ridermain system's introduction all will be much better, but the ridermain system is not yet introduced, not can it be for a long while. The Colonial Secretary admits that at present, in times of intermittent supply, water is available at adequate pressure only on an average fifteen minutes after the alarm of fire has been given. That a conflagration has ample time to gain firm hold in a quarter of an hour is obvious. Many of our readers no doubt have been witnesses to this fact in Hongkong, and have been at fires here where the absence of a timely supply of water has caused a great multiplication of the amount of damage. The Government seems content that this shall remain the case until we have ridermain in working order. The Government is more easily contented than the public. We must, we suppose, take the expert opinion of the authorities on the efficiency of their own fire-engines, but with regard to the question of the use of sea-water for extinction of fires we may be permitted, perhaps, to suggest that the Government's consideration of the matter was not conclusive. The scheme has not been adopted, the Colonial Secretary told the Council on Tuesday, as it has been ascertained that it would cost nearly as much as increasing the rain-water reservoirs. There have, nevertheless, been experts in this very Government's service who did not look on the cost as prohibitive; and it must be remembered that sea-water can be used solely for fire-extinction or for that and the flushing of the low levels combined, which two uses would not therefore dip into our drinking-water supply as the present system of employing rain-water for all purposes does. The growth of our supply of potable water would not be so utterly inadequate, were we able to devote

only sea-water to the quenching of fires and certain flushing duties. We should therefore be cutting down the expenses of the fresh water supply works and giving them, in fact, permanent relief.

Kowloon residents will hardly be pleased to note that the Government is "not entirely satisfied" with the present means of extinguishing fires in the peninsula during the dry season; but that it is still thought right to go on as at present for another eighteen months, when it is hoped that the new Kowloon waterworks will be in working order. Those who suffer from fire in Kowloon during the next eighteen months will be able therefore to reflect on the folly of being premature. But, seriously speaking, we must confess to being somewhat astonished that the Government should offer such an answer as that to the third of Mr. POLLOCK's questions. It is practically an admission that immediate steps are required, but that they will not be taken on account of expense.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

(Daily Press, 16th May.)

It is scarcely necessary to say—especially so soon after the correspondence which recently appeared in the *Daily Press*—that the public welcomes the recommencement of the weekly performances of the military bands on the New Parade Ground instituted for the special benefit of the European civilian population by Major-General Gascoigne, and now happily continued by his successor. Like the majority of residents who have put in an appearance on Monday evenings, I was surprised to find it no longer possible to enter the ground from the pathway at the end of the Beaconsfield Arcade. When, in commenting last season on the need for a little improvement at this entrance, I described it as an unauthorised one I did not contemplate that the military authorities would block it up, but rather, seeing that it was used by fully 90 per cent. of those who attended the Band performances, the thought suggested itself that the little bank at that point might be properly graded or a couple of steps inserted. But the authorities have decreed otherwise, and it has been amusing to watch the number of people who have gone up what is now a cul de sac and have had to come back again and walk a couple of hundred yards to the proper entrance opposite to the barracks.

We must continue to enjoy the danger of being hit in the face or elsewhere with bamboo poles! It cannot be denied that our local magistrates are careful men—careful rather of not straining the law, however, than of the public convenience. This was illustrated last Monday, when the senior magistrate refused to consider a coolie carrying a bamboo pole on a footpath under a verandah as liable to the penalty prescribed by Ordinance 14 of 1845. Now the part of this Ordinance which bears on the point has already been quoted in the Press, but some of my readers may not have seen it, so I give it once more. It runs:—Every person shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds . . . who upon any public footway, shall roll or carry any barrel, cask, butt, or other thing calculated to annoy or incommodate the passengers thereon, except for the purpose of housing them or loading any cart or carriage on the other side of the footway." Bamboo-poles, however, in the opinion of the magistrate, do not come under the heading "other thing." It will be interesting to hear whether paper is another thing; a case came up at the Police Court on Friday on this point and was adjourned till the 20th inst. I presume that it is held that, with reference to the interpretation of Ordinance 14 of 1845, bamboo poles are not "other things" because not *ejusdem generis*. But a shovel apparently is *ejusdem generis*. Truly the magisterial mind is a wonderful thing, and the law should be the admiration of the coolie class!

I notice a growing practice on the part of Chinese firms, and some others, of advertising themselves and their wares on the backs of bank-notes. We pity and forgive the obscure

Chinese poet who sometimes covers the back of a note with hieroglyphics which the translator will explain is a poem, but we are inclined to rise up in our wrath and smite the man who desecrates a banknote with so sordid a thing as a trade advertisement. The ingenious trader often uses a neat rubber stamp for the purpose, but this week a ten-dollar note came into my hands which was adorned by an advertisement of a Chinese firm laboriously written out in English and covering quite one half the back of the note. The calligraphy was not a work of art, but the Chinaman might have consoled himself with the thought that it was all the more attractive for that very reason. This method of advertising may be ingenious, but the practice is one that the public fails to appreciate and prays for its discontinuance. Chinese magazines are more suitable circulating media for poetry, and the proper place for trade announcements is in the advertising columns of the *Daily Press*. Terms on application.

A visit to an auction where Chinese gather together and compete for charred rubbish, debris from one of Hongkong's numerous fires, is well worth the trouble. The sodden charred straw, intermingled with damaged varnish, barral-hoops etc., at No. 9 Kowloon Godown, fetched some \$650. One Chinaman, you see, bids against another, neither having any knowledge of the stuff. Each has a notion that the other is playing for a big thing, and, consequently, up go the prices. It is surprising to see what burnt-out tin-cans fetch; and about \$500 was paid for the remains of matches at the other godown. The only thing the crowd really turned their noses up at was a few bales of worthless charred hay—ever the "cut" Chinaman could not make capital out of that! A quantity of candles came out of the thick of No. 9 Godown fire as good as ever. The cases were stained outside, but inside was as "right as rain." Water, of course, must have chanced to fall on them pretty liberally, but even so the occurrence is extraordinary. Several barrels of oil, too, were none the worse for their heating. Merchandise was so strewn about in the vicinity of No. 9 Godown that it took an Indian watchman all his time to look after it.

That untiring snake-hunter Solomon, of the Water Department, effected a clever capture of a large hooded cobra on Friday evening near Plantation Road. He secured it alive, and it was on exhibition at the Peak on Saturday morning. The spectacles were very clearly marked in white at the back of the head. The cobra was fully four feet in length, and was evidently a fully grown reptile. I understand the captor intends to present it to the City Hall Museum, and as it is a fine and very perfect specimen it will no doubt prove a welcome addition to the collection of snakes in that institution.

It is generally agreed that the numbering of houses in the Peak district has proved a great success, enabling visitors to save much time when trying to get by chair to houses previously unvisited by them. It is now only to be wondered at that the idea was not thought of before. But this is always the case with useful reforms.

There has been a rumour of another evening paper for Hongkong. This is not quite a new idea. Possibly, however, the would-be promoters will think twice about it. The European population is not growing at an abnormal pace now, and innovations in the journalistic line are attended with some risks. At any rate, we do not see any development of the "Society" side so far. Yet we were threatened not long ago with a real Society weekly. Hongkong has survived many threats.

I see that the correspondent up north of a London paper revives the question of a Ming candidate for the Dragon Throne, and mentions that a descendant of the old house is living in Canton without any thoughts of taking advantage of his illustrious descent. This may be so; but I would not like to wager much on it. We have been told for many years that the Mings are as dead as a door-nail. It is safest to say "Perhaps."

BANYAN.

THE WAR.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

KOBE, 16th May.

The Japanese *Miyako* touched a mine near Talieuwan on Saturday and sunk in twenty minutes. Casualties number eight.

LONDON, 18th May.

There is a Russian report to the effect that a Japanese force has reached a point 30 miles north-east of Moukden on the railway line, and is advancing in three columns.

It is also reported that General Kuropatkin is about to retire to Harbin and await reinforcements. Giving the Japanese 225,000 men now in the field, he calculates that they will take six weeks to reach Harbin.

LONDON, 18th May.

General Kuropatkin reports that 20,000 Japanese troops have landed at Siungyucheng, south of Kaiping.

General Kuropatkin and Admiral Alexieff are in total disagreement, both as to the question of the defence of Port Arthur and in other matters.

LONDON, 19th May.

General Sassulitch, who was in command on the Yalu, has been superseded by General Keller.

JAPANESE OFFICIAL DESPATCHES.

The Japanese Consul at Hongkong has kindly sent to us for publication a copy of the following official telegrams received by him:—

Tokyo, 16th May.

General Kuroki reports that the exact numbers of Japanese casualties at the battle of the Yalu were 218 killed, including 5 officers, 783 wounded, including 33 officers. Russian corpses buried by us numbered 1,363, and 613 prisoners were taken. The booty consisted of three-inch quick-firing field guns, 21 quick-firing machine guns, 8 rifles, 1,021 horses and 63 cases of ammunition, besides clothing, tents, &c. At Fenghuang some ammunition, clothing and provisions were taken.

Tokyo, 16th May.

"Admiral Kataoka reports that on the 16th inst. our torpedo-boat flotilla continued sea sweeping operations under cover of the fleet. The enemy constructed a temporary battery on a promontory between Kerr Bay and Talieuwan and laid six field guns, besides a hastily constructed fort, and sent one company which stubbornly resisted. Our flotilla defying enemy's fire carried the operation and destroyed five mines; unfortunately one mine exploded and the *Miyako* was sunk; six wounded besides two killed during fight."

Tokyo, 18th May.

"The commander of the landing forces at Liaotung reports that, between the 5th and 16th instant, daily skirmishes have taken place, the Japanese detachments successfully driving the enemy and destroying the telegraph communication and railways at Pulantien and its vicinity. On the 16th instant, after serious fighting, our forces occupied the heights distant three and a half miles from Kinchow. Our casualties were 146, including nine officers wounded."

Pulantien is marked in most English maps "Port Adams." It is about 10 miles north of Kinchow.

TELEGRAMS TO SHANGHAI.

We take the following telegrams from the *N.-C. Daily News*:—

Peking, 10th May.—The Russians evacuated Newchwang and Tashihchiao on Saturday and Sunday last. There are no Russian troops at Newchwang city at the present moment."

Tokyo, 10th May.—The Imperial Ordinance regarding the loan has been gazetted. The leading Japanese journals welcome it as a financial coup, while re-uttering the hypothecation of the Customs as security. Parr's Bank, London, Kuhn, Loeb & Co., New York, each take half the loan."

Tokyo, 10th May.—The Koreans who fled from Pingyang and Anju at the commencement of the war have returned to their homes. Koreans in Russian pay in North Hamgyong province have cut off the Japanese military wires."

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 17th instant in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, F. H. MAY, C.M.G.

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Secretary).
Hon. Sir H. S. BERKELEY (Attorney-General).

Hon. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Captain L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. P. N. H. JONES (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. W. J. GRESSON.

Mr. S. B. C. ROSS (Clerk of Councils).

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. W. J. Gresson took the oath and assumed his seat as a member of Council in succession to Mr. C. W. Dickson.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 27 to 29) and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 6) and moved its adoption.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

PAPERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the reports for 1903 of the Harbour Master, the Government Bacteriologist, on the Post Office, and on the Po Leung Kuk.

QUESTIONS.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK put the following question:—

1. Is the Government satisfied that the present means for extinguishing fires in the City of Victoria during the dry season are sufficient? If not, does the Government propose to take any and, if so, what steps, and when, to remedy the deficiency or deficiencies?

2. Has the Government considered the question of the advisability of adopting a special service for extinguishing fires by pumping up sea-water from the harbour by means of special pumping-stations on the Praya into special fire water mains? Does the Government propose to take any measures of that or a similar character? Is it not the fact that the Government Fire Engine hose has proved, during this present dry season, to be of insufficient strength to pump up sea-water to Jervois Street, or Lyndhurst Terrace, and has repeatedly burst in so doing?

3. Is the Government satisfied that the present means for extinguishing fires in the Kowloon Peninsula during the dry season are sufficient? If not, does the Government propose to take any and, if so, what steps, and when, to remedy the deficiency or deficiencies?

4. Is there only one Fire Engine in the Kowloon Peninsula in the service of the Colonial Government, and from what source or sources would such Fire Engine be supplied with water during the dry season in the event of a fire occurring during the dry season at too great a distance from the sea for salt water to be available for extinguishing purposes? How many members are there in the Kowloon Fire Brigade?

5. Will the Government provided more seats for the use of the public on the Kennedy Road, Bowen Road, Magazine Gap Road, and Barker Road?

6. Will the Government state what would be—
(a.) The capital cost of erecting lamp-posts, with the necessary gas-burners and appliances and connections with the gas-main at the following places at the Peak, namely:—

(i.) On the slope up to Plunkett's Gap, near the approach to the Commodore's Bungalow;

(ii.) At the junction of Chamberlain Road with the Mount Kellet Road;

(iii.) At the Plantation Road Gap, near the entrance to Brockhurst?

(.) The estimated annual expenditure for the gas required to keep such lamp-posts lighted at night?

ANSWERS.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY replied as follows:—
1. Pending the construction of the rider main system under which there should always be water in the mains available for all fires even when water is cut off from houses, the means is considered reasonably sufficient. On the occurrence of fire during the intermittent supply water is always turned on in the mains and is available at adequate pressure on the average 15 minutes after the alarm of fire is given. There are also three steam fire engines for use in Victoria and vicinity, and during the intermittent water supply the Victoria side of the Harbour. The engines used by the Fire Brigade are quite efficient and have not in any way deteriorated through age. They deliver about 300 gallons of water a minute and will stand a pressure of 129 lbs to the square inch. Government does not at present propose to take any steps to increase its fire extinguishing apparatus. To do so would prove expensive and later on unnecessary.

2. This question has been considered by the Government. The scheme has not been adopted, as it has been ascertained that it would cost nearly as much as increasing the rain-water reservoirs. The hose is strong enough to pump water to much greater heights than those mentioned in the question. It is regularly tested and unsound lengths periodically replaced. The hose has burst on very few occasions only. Such accidents occur at times in all Fire Brigades.

3. The Government is not absolutely satisfied with the present means of extinguishing fires in Kowloon during the dry season. The completion of the new Kowloon water-works will however give water at pressure in the main available by fire hydrants as in Victoria. It is hoped that the new water-works will be in working order in about 18 months. Government does not for the reason stated in Answer 1 intend to take any immediate steps.

4. There is only one Government fire engine in the Kowloon Peninsula. It is stationed at Yaumati. The floating engine is kept at Tsim-sha-tsui except in times of an intermittent water supply, when it is kept on the Victoria side. The sea is the only source of water supply for fire extinguishing purposes in Kowloon at present. In cases of fire in the neighbourhood of the sea, the floating and Yaumati engines would both pump from the sea direct to the fire. In cases of fires at a distance from the sea the floating engine would feed a portable dam from the sea and the land engine would pump from the dam to the fire. 1,800 feet of hose is kept at Yaumati with the engine, and the floating engine carries also over 1,800 feet, in addition to over 1,700 feet of large 4 in. hose. This is considered ample to reach any house in Kowloon, as it is estimated that no house in Old Kowloon is situated at more than 3,800 feet from the sea. There are eight members of the Brigade permanently stationed at Kowloon; 3 Europeans at Tsim-sha-tsui and 3 Europeans and 3 Chinese at Yaumati. Temporary reinforcements are sent from Victoria as required.

5. The Director of Public Works has been instructed to provide a reasonable number of additional seats as far as the funds available will permit.

6. The three lamps complete at the sites named would cost \$200.

The cost of lighting and maintenance would be \$240 per annum. The Government is considering the question of erecting lamps at the places indicated.

THE OPIUM BILL.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Prepared Opium Ordinance, 1891.

He said—Your Excellency,—The amendments to the Opium Ordinance are necessary to effect that protection to the Opium Farmer from illicit sales of opium to which he is rightfully entitled. The necessity for amending the Ordinance, sir, arises from the difficulty of putting such a construction upon the present definition of the words "prepared opium" and "preparation of opium" that exist in the present Ordinance. The definition of "prepared

"Tokyo, 10th May.—Three hundred Russians taken prisoners in the Yalu operations have arrived in Japan."

"Peking, 11th May.—There is a rumour at Newchwang that the Japanese occupied Kai-ping, a city on the Manchurian railway some 16 miles south of Tashihchiao, on the 9th, and there is a widespread belief that they will arrive at Newchwang on the 13th. The Russians show great haste and confusion in their endeavours to escape from the seat of war; their troops are gathering at Newchatun station to escape before the Japanese arrive."

"Tokyo, 11th May.—A second issue of exchange bonds to the amount of a hundred million yen (£10,000,000 sterling) will possibly be made at the end of the month. The Cabinet is to confer with the bankers and financiers to-night. The new foreign loan is intended to secure the convertible notes, and the whole proceeds will be kept in London."

"Tokyo, 11th May.—Admiral Togo reports that explosions are being continually heard from Port Arthur, *apropos* of which it may be mentioned that it is privately understood that the Russians are destroying the remnants of their men-of-war."

"Tokyo, 13th May.—It is officially announced that the third squadron made an indirect bombardment of Dalny on the 12th May, and repulsed the Russians ashore."

"Tokyo, 13th May.—While searching for Russian mines, No. 48 torpedo-boat was blown up and divided in two, but she had successfully completed the sweeping and surveying of the adjacent waters, and had cut off the communications with the land. By this accident the Japanese lost seven killed, including an ensign, and seven wounded."

[The torpedo-boat No. 48 was a vessel of a little over 100 tons.]

"Tokyo, 13th May.—It is announced that the Japanese at Pulantien sighted on the 6th instant a train from Port Arthur without any Red Cross mark, which fired on them. The Japanese replied, and then the Russians hoisted the Red Cross flag. The Japanese intended to examine the cars, which, however, went ahead at full speed, and escaped."

"Tokyo, 13th May.—A portion of the Russians are crossing the Pyongan and Hamkyong borders. Russians who have failed to join their camp are now continually raiding the frontier districts."

"Tokyo, 13th May.—Troops have been despatched from Seoul and Fusan for the protection of the Seoul-Fusan railway."

"Tokyo, 13th May.—The Yalu prisoners consisting of 16 officers, of whom nine are wounded, and 415 men, of whom 265 are wounded, will arrive at Shikoku to-morrow."

RUSSIAN NEWS.

The following telegram from General Flouge has been communicated to the Shanghai papers:—

Mukden, 11th May.

"By the information received during the 10th inst. from mounted patrols and from scouts, a Japanese division, supposed to belong to the Guards, has left Fenghwangcheng in the direction of Haicheng (a town on the railway, between Tashihchiao and Liaoyang). One division of infantry, with 40 guns and 15,000 (? 1,500) cavalry, was to proceed from Fenghwangcheng towards Saimachi. Up to to-day, it is learnt that at Kuantiensien there is an advanced guard consisting of one battalion of infantry, three companies of cavalry, and one mountain battery. By the reports of General Mischenko, the Japanese troops in his front were divided on the 7th inst. into two parties; the first situated at a day's march south-west of Fenghwangcheng, and the second on the lower part of the Tayang river (which runs in a south-east direction and enters into the Bay of Corea at Takushan). On the same day the latter party began to cross the river."

"The Chinese population favours the Japanese. A Chinaman warned a Japanese patrol that the Russians were preparing an ambush for it."

"The train which left Vafandian (? Wafung-tien) reached Port Arthur safely, and the rolling-stock has already returned."

"Up to now we have received no exact information of the number of the enemy landed at Pitsewo. To the north of Cape Terminal, 30 Japanese transports were seen. The Bay of Sizhoi is still occupied by us, and we are reconnoitring thence. There is no change in other parts of the theatre of war."

opium" in the Ordinance as it stands is as follows:—"Prepared opium shall so far as relates to infringement of the Opium Farmer's privilege of preparing opium for the Colony mean opium which has been subjected to any degree of artificial heat for any purpose whatsoever"; and the definition of preparation is "subjecting of opium of any kind to any degree of artificial heat for any purpose whatsoever." Now, persons have been importing into this Colony opium and using it in the preparation of so-called anti-opium—whatever that may mean—pills and wine; and on appearing before the Magistrate the prosecution has failed, because though it was easy enough to prove that these wine and pills were each a preparation of opium, still in neither case could the learned Magistrate be satisfied that any degree of artificial heat had been used in the preparation thereof. Still, of course, sir, it is obvious at once that it was a technical objection which was fatal to the operation of the Ordinance which is intended for the protection of the Opium Farmer—it is obvious that it is quite impossible, say, for any witness to say whether any opium brought from Canton and shipped here for preparation of pills and wine had been at any time subjected to any degree of artificial heat. Given the principle therefore of the proper protection of the farmer in the monopoly which this Government from the authority vested in it has granted to him—acceding that principle, it is obvious that it is the clear duty of the Government and of this Council to pass such a measure as will give the farmer that protection to which he is entitled. Well, sir, it is not necessary, but at the same time it is just as well for us to remember that the amount paid by the opium farmer for farming the monopoly for the exclusive privilege—and we must remember it is an exclusive privilege that he has—of dealing in opium is in itself extremely large and is greatly in excess of that which has been paid by any farmer in previous years; and though I have heard it put forward as a reason why nothing should be done in the present circumstances that these illicit sales have been going on for a long period in the past—though that may be perfectly true, still in view of the fact that the farmer to-day is paying more than three times what his predecessors paid, it may equally be true—in fact it seems to me it is obviously more true—that he as a prudent man of business can no longer be content to overlook that which did not matter so much to his predecessors who were paying so much less for the exclusive right they had. Now, sir, from enquiries that have been made since the necessity for these amendments was brought to the notice of this Government, it appears that this illicit competition has increased since the farmer has proposed to increase his prices somewhat. It will be seen at once that when a man gives three times as much as his predecessor was paying for the article he is entitled to sell, it is only to be supposed that some increase in the price to the public will follow. It is to be admitted that the farmer, exercising in that respect the right which he has, has somewhat increased his prices, but it must also be admitted that that increase has been trifling. I challenge that statement to be contradicted. The increase in the selling price of opium by the opium farmer has been trifling. Enquiries have shown that the price has increased by one-fifth only, and one-fifth is I say trifling. That, I put it to the house, can anybody consider an undue increase in view of the fact that the opium farmer now pays \$2,000,000 per annum.

Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—More than that!

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—And more, the hon. and learned member remarks. Therefore if it is more it makes the increase all the more trifling. One-fifth only, however, is charged for the opium and more than three times is paid to the revenue itself. Meantime the sales of the opium farmer have fallen enormously. The falling off too has not been due to any less consumption. It cannot in fairness all be attributed to the small increase of one-fifth. What it is due to is the excessive illicit introduction, preparation, and sale in this Colony of opium, which, I say, unless it is checked will render it impossible probably—at any rate extremely difficult—for the opium farmer to fulfil the conditions of the tender which he has entered into in this Colony. Now, I propose to deal

shortly with one or two suggestions which I believe will be urged by my hon. and learned friend opposite [Mr. Pollock] to the progress of this measure. The first, as I understand it, is that it is a great hardship to prevent the sale of opium-pills and wine by persons who have hitherto been licensed or permitted by former opium farmers to sell them, and also secondly, to prevent the sale of these opium wine and pills would be to force the opium habit upon persons who are struggling to free themselves from it. Now, sir, neither of those assertions stand for a moment when examined. Take the first—the hardship upon those who have hitherto engaged either in selling opium wine and pills, by permission or by overlooking or by licence from the opium farmer. Now we also have made enquiries into that assertion because the last thing this Government desires is to inflict hardship upon anybody; and from the report made by the hon. Registrar-General it appears that there are some 83 firms who deal in opium-pills and wine, and of these 83 only five of them deal in these articles exclusively. But the other 78 were general dealers who turned—I cannot call it an honest penny, by the additional sales of opium-pills and wine. But I say as to quantum, of these 83 there were only five, so we must deal with five and see what hardship would be to them. But even suppose there were 83. The largest of these dealers did a business which he admitted to amount to—what do you think?—\$100 a month total sales, and not net but gross sales; and he admitted to the Registrar-General, and we have it in the report, that after deducting out-of-pocket expenses his profit—the largest profit—amounted to about \$35 a month. Now, where is the hardship? Even suppose the opium farmer had been allowing those persons or inducing them to sell these opium wine and pills, I say there is no hardship there. It is clear therefore, I put it to you, that while a great loss is inflicted upon the opium farmer by the infringement of his privilege the loss to the individual dealers is comparatively small.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I think you will recollect that the report of the Registrar-General stated that this \$100 a month was taken by the largest retail dealer.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I understood I did say a retail dealer. He has the largest retail business, and he admitted that his sales did not exceed \$100 a month. I only dealt with that argument because it put a wrong aspect on this matter. It is an *ad captandum* argument and has no force otherwise. The question is not whether it is a hardship or not to prevent a man who has been for a long course of time in illicit business from any longer engaging in it, but whether or not the opium farmer, when he comes to this Council to be protected from the illicit dealers, is entitled to that protection. From the moral point of view, the question of hardship ought not to enter for a single moment. It was the case of a smuggler who for a long course of time had been in the habit of smuggling, and the authorities had either been careless or had looked the other way. The illicit opium seller has absolutely no claim to the consideration of this Council for one single moment. The man who is entitled to consideration and protection is the honest opium farmer who pays \$2,000,000 a year towards the revenue of this country to be acceded the privilege of exclusively dealing in opium. How can he be said to get the privilege if A. B. C. and D. are illicitly competing with him in the same business? But at the same time, though unnecessary for me to have to deal with the question of hardship, it is gratifying to know that in any particular proceeding one is not inflicting a hardship, and I put it to you that I have shown, you that, even if hardship were any argument, which it is not, there is no question of hardship in dealing with this case to-day. Now, the opium farmer has considered this question, and whether he can continue to license a certain number of persons to sell opium provided they buy it from him, and the Council will see at once that is not a question for anybody but the opium farmer is entitled to settle. Surely a man is entitled to settle that himself, having paid for the exclusive right of dealing—to settle the question for himself whether he will license another to deal also. Well, he has considered that question, and I am informed that he cannot see his way to any longer permit

either by licence or otherwise the sale of opium by any person but himself; and the principal reason why he has been forced to take that course is the impossibility of controlling the illicit dealers—either to make them keep a true record of their sales or to compel them to purchase their stocks from the opium farmer. It is one thing to say the opium farmer may continue to license those persons—five or six or 83—who have been hitherto selling, but how are we to reply to the opium farmer when he says, "Have you considered the great temptation that a rise in the price of opium holds out to persons who deal in this trade?" What guarantee have I got that the man who is my licensee will keep proper returns of his sales, and what guarantee have I got that he will not under cover of the licence which he holds from me import a little from me and a great deal from Canton independently of me?" Any practical man—and the house is full of practical men—will see at once that such an answer as that is unanswerable, and it would be in the highest degree wrong to force the opium farmer to take any such step to his obvious undoing or refuse to afford him protection against one who persists in dealing in opium without his knowledge or consent. Well, now, the second assertion is to the effect that the sale of opium-pills and wine is principally made to those who want to break themselves of the opium habit. I do not know whether such a suggestion will be made here to-day, but I have heard it suggested that it is to the interests of the opium farm that the habit should be indulged in rather than cured. Now, enquiries have been made from the opium farmer showing that this assertion and this objection are also groundless, because the opium farmer is prepared to supply pills and wine to anyone who desires to eat or to drink them, whether to cure himself from opium smoking or to indulge himself. The opium farmer is prepared to sell them. Therefore it will not lie in the mouth of any person who opposes this Bill to say that the pills and wine are no longer to be sold. They will be sold by the opium farmer, and he is prepared to open branches where all facilities will be given to those who desire to purchase these pills and wine; and he has stated that he is prepared to sell these opium pills and wine at a price which will be 25 per cent. less than the ordinary selling price of ordinary prepared opium. This offer on the part of the opium farmer I cannot but feel, will commend itself and himself to the Council at once, for the man is not bound to make these concessions. He is entitled to come here and say, "I stand upon my legal rights and demand but justice. You have put up a tender for the exclusive right of selling opium. I give you \$2,000,000 for the contract and I have a right to demand justice at your hands and protection from anyone who infringes it." When a man with these rights is prepared to make concessions we are bound to say he cannot be the altogether undesirable person that he possibly may be considered by some. What more does that *bona-fide* consumer require than to have a place at which he can buy his pills and wine at a reasonable price? Do you suppose it matters one cash to the consumer from whom he buys the opium so long as he can get it at a reasonable price, and if he can get it at a price 25 per cent. less than the price of prepared opium and at a branch establishment of the farmer, he has no longer any complaint so far as he is concerned. He gets all he wants, the probable conclusion is, cheaper from the farmer than he could and does from the illicit seller. Now, I will not detain you very much longer, but I will just say that that assertion that the pills and wine are taken by a person to cure the opium habit has nothing in it, because it is impossible for anyone who advances such a suggestion to produce such an authority of any value if any at all which will hold the habit will be cured in that way. It is cured by what is called strength of will and not by sipping and nipping opium wine or taking reduced puffs of opium pipes or swallowing pills. For the purpose of catching the unwary, these wine and pills are called by the name of anti-opium. What does it mean? It has no meaning at all. They are not anti-opium pills and wine but opium; they are pills and wine which contain a certain amount of opium in them, and that they will effect a cure I say again it is impossible for

anyone to bring any authority to assure us. Well, now, there has been another objection raised, and it was the one that had most weight with me; and that was that the effect of the proposed measure will be to prevent the Tung Wah Hospital from prescribing opium pills and wine for its patients. Well, gentlemen, I have pointed out to you in the house that the opium farmer is prepared to make concessions which are reasonable. He is prepared to do more, because he is prepared, recognising as we all do the good work the Tung Wah Hospital does in this country, to recognise the right of the hospital authorities to prescribe pills and wine to its in-patients without restriction of any kind except this, which cannot be called a restriction, that the pills and wine are obtained from him. And also he is prepared to do more. He is prepared, and I think it is reasonable, to supply these opium pills and wine free, and that, I think, is generous, so we have the opium farmer here both reasonable in his demands and generous in his intentions. But he cannot consent that the Tung Wah Hospital should supply all its out-patients in a similar manner. Surely, gentlemen, that is not unreasonable because the reason is obvious, that the opportunities which would be afforded of abusing that privilege are too great. I put it to you that that restriction, if it can be called such, upon his generosity is right and most reasonable in itself. Well, now, I do not want to hurt the feelings of anyone, of course, but I am bound to say that the result of my enquiries into this opposition to the Opium Amendment Bill have led me to the conclusion that it is factitious rather than real. I am told that the opposition is not really the consumer. The real opposition comes from the illicit dealers who will be losing their profit. I say that it does not come from the consumer, for so long as he can get his pills and wine at a reasonable rate it matters not to him where he gets them. The opposition here is not real but factitious and unreal. Now, I put it to you and this house that illicit dealers have no claim whatever to any consideration from this house. They have no interests that they had obtained legally or morally entitling them to protection as against the opium farmer to whom the law had given the exclusive privilege which they had infringed. I move, sir, that the Bill be read a second time.

The COLONIAL TREASURER seconded.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI—Sir, after having listened very carefully to the speech of the hon. and learned Attorney-General, I must say that a few of my objections to the second reading of this Bill have vanished. But one point only I still think he did not explain away, and it is that point which, so far as I am concerned, determines me to oppose the second reading of the Bill. It is quite true, sir, that we as members of this Council do all we can to protect the public revenue, but at the same time I submit, sir, that we should do so only without injuring private interests, without undue hardship upon those whom a measure of this kind would injure. Now, the learned Attorney-General has quoted, he says, from a private enquiry—which by the bye, might have been made a little bit more public on both sides and might have been read by them—that there were 83 firms concerned in dealing with opium pills and wine. Well, of course, personally I have nothing to do with them—with these dealers in opium pills and wine; I know nothing. I take his word for it. And he said only five of them are really wholesale dealers or were principally dealing in wine and pills or exclusively deal in them; and that the remainder only have these pills and wine as one article among their stock. Now sir, it does not matter, it seems to me, whether a man deals in opium pills and wine exclusively or whether he deals in them as part of his business. You might just as well say you can pass a law affecting the interests of a firm in cotton yarn and say you are not doing them any great amount of injury or inflicting hardship upon them because they are also dealing in flour, kerosene oil, and other articles, which they can still continue to trade in. The question is one of principle, and whether it affects 83 or 800 persons, or even one, the principle is the same; we are not justified in causing injury to a single firm in order that the revenue of this Colony may be increased, or that the opium farmer's interests may be put into a better state of protection. It is like robbing Paul to pay Peter; you are making

a law to deprive certain persons of the right to deal in certain articles so that another person may get the benefit. Exclusion of this kind we must, as unofficial members of this Council, and as guardians of the rights of the public, strenuously oppose. The question is whether this trade in opium wine is illicit or not. The learned Attorney-General in the reasons appended to the Ordinance and also in his speech to-day has stated that these dealings in opium are illicit. Now, it seems to me that they are not illicit. The learned Attorney-General first of all assumes that the trade is illicit, and, of course, his argument that we should do away with this trade appears unanswerable. I say, first let us enquire whether the trade is really illicit or not. Now the existing Ordinance under which the opium farmer enjoys his rights does not give to him the exclusive right to deal in opium; but merely in "prepared opium." He wants you now to alter the whole aspect of the case. At present the farmer has no right to deal with an ounce of raw opium without the knowledge and consent of the Government. At one time he had, and it was owing to his dealing with raw opium in this Colony that a blockade of Hongkong by Chinese revenue cruisers existed, and it was for that reason that two Commissioners, Sir Robert Hart and Taotai Shiu, were sent down from Peking to treat with the Hongkong Government through Commissioner Russell, afterwards Chief Justice Sir James Russell. The result was that the Opium Convention was signed, and then an Ordinance was passed by the Hongkong Legislature forbidding the dealing in raw opium by anybody without the full knowledge and consent of the Government. The opium farmer's stock of opium was first of all limited to 5,000 chests or so, and afterwards reduced to, I think, 3,000 chests. I have not the figures but I think that is about right. Then, also, he is restricted by certain regulations as to the number of chests he shall draw out of bond in a certain time. These restrictions placed upon the dealings of the farmer in raw opium prevent him smuggling it into the interior of China, but in the new Bill, the opium farmer's power is supreme, and not an ounce or grain of prepared opium can be sold or dealt in in this Colony without his consent.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Nor can anyone prepare a dram of opium in the Colony.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI: No one can prepare opium in this Colony except the farmer, or other person having his consent. Now let us consider the words "prepared opium." Every hon. member of this Council knows that with the law before him the opium farmer knew that law when he tendered for a monopoly. What he paid for it does not matter; that is not the question we are at present considering. The opium farmer having had his tender accepted, and having paid accordingly, found there were certain persons in this Colony selling opium wine and opium pills which we will assume for the moment interfered with his business. He summoned one of these persons before the Magistrate who enquired into the case and decided that he could not hold that opium which was contained in opium pills or wine, as the case might be, came within the Opium Ordinance.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Because he could not prove that it had been subjected to heat.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI: Well, it was not prepared opium, and the Magistrate could not say that it was. I can understand that heat is required to make prepared opium, but the words "prepared opium" in the ordinance mean opium prepared for smoking. When the farm was first created the attention of the Legislature was concentrated upon the creation of a monopoly in the sale of opium prepared for smoking, and opium cannot be prepared for smoking without passing through some degree of heat; it might be boiling heat or merely slight heat. When the farmer failed in his case at the Magistracy, it seems to me that if he was dissatisfied with the decision, he should have taken the case into the Supreme Court. If he is within his right in claiming what he does, he should get it, but why did he not go to the higher court and ask for the opinion of the judges on the point? He neglected or omitted

to do so, and he is now appealing to us to pass an ordinance creating new rights for him.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: No; merely to make the definition clear.

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK: New rights are provided.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI: I will give you an example. Supposing I have let premises on lease, and in that lease I make use of certain terms giving the lessee certain rights of way and so on. That is settled. Presently, the tenant turns round on me and says: "You gave me a right of way and 'such other rights'; that means right of air, and light, also of support or anything else." I say: "No; I simply gave you certain rights of way and no more. Such other rights means rights belonging to the same class as a right of way." The lessee says: "I will go to law about it." Suppose he loses his case. "Well," he says, "I cannot get a decision against you in the law court, so I will apply to the Government ask them for an Ordinance under which a right of way and such other rights, shall be held to mean the rights I have mentioned." Is it just that the Legislature should assist persons of this kind to re-define the words of their contracts, making those words include certain things which were not contemplated by the use of the terms in the contract? It is on this particular principle that I found my opposition to the second reading of this Bill. The learned Attorney-General also mentioned that the Opium Farmer thinks it impossible for him to license these opium pill and wine dealers on account of the difficulty. I suppose, of preventing illicit dealing, as it would be if this Bill were passed. I am one of those who would propose a solution of the present difficulty by this means, and I regret that the opium farmer does not think it feasible for him to adopt a system of licensing and so obviate such an ordinance as the one before us, which means the extinction of a very large trade altogether. If he charged a certain fee for a license to sellers of opium pills and wine—which, by the way, I understand (from the Attorney-General) is only a very trifling trade, though it is at the same time represented as going to interfere tremendously with the profits of the opium farmer—

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: A very small trade by the individual; but very large in the aggregate.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI: You are affecting, then, a very large trade.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: It is infinitesimal individually.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI: But the aggregate is considerable. By charging a licensing fee it seems to me that the justice of the case would be met. Refusal to grant such licences means the total abolition of the trade of these dealers and the goodwill of their businesses, by one stroke of the pen, will be transferred to the opium farmer. There must be a goodwill in this as in every trade.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL: But these men cannot have a goodwill. How can you employ that legal expression in connection with a person who sells illicitly. Under the ordinance I contend that the trade is illicit. If you look up Sections 9 and 10 of the present Opium Ordinance you will find that no person can have prepared opium in his possession, nor prepare opium.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI: I contend that under that ordinance the sale of these things is not illicit. I contend that the word as applied to these dealers by the learned Attorney-General is a mistake, and my argument is that the Bill now before the Council will deprive them of their trade and goodwill. Of course, if the learned Attorney-General convinces me—I am certainly open to conviction—(hear, hear)—that dealing in these articles is illicit; if the opium farmer had taken a case to the higher court and the judges had held the trade to be illicit—no one would have been a stronger supporter of this Bill than I. I do not hold a brief for either party, and I wish to protect the revenue of the Colony. There is just one other point that has struck me. I believe that unless it is perfectly clearly established that the sale of opium pills and wine is illicit the Secretary of State at home would not view a Bill of this kind with favour. I consider it my duty and maintain it is the duty of all the unofficial members of the Council, to look after

the rights of the public and even of an individual case in which rights are jeopardised—for after all, the public life is simply the aggregate individual life—and that we should consider well before passing an ordinance of this kind which will include new rights in the concession or monopoly to the opium farmer and impose very great hardships to the extent of depriving many people of the right to continue their trade in this Colony. I do not think I can usefully go on to discuss other points because, as I say, I have endeavoured to place before the Council my one objection to the Bill and if that one objection is removed I would be very glad to give the Bill my support.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK next rose to speak.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I should be very much obliged if you will inform me what the position is exactly of these petitions. This Council has received two petitions: one purports to emanate from certain members of the general community and the other from the shops dealing in these pills. Both of these petitions have been forwarded to us through a somewhat unusual channel—the channel of the hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce. I shall be very glad to be informed whether the hon. member in the exercise of his profession has drawn these petitions, has been paid for drawing them, and is to be remunerated for advocating the prayer contained in these petitions before this Council?

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Your Excellency, in reply to the questions which have been just put to me, I did prepare these petitions professionally for the parties on behalf of the parties for whom they are prepared. There is no secret about it. And I forwarded the petitions to the Government. With regard to the other question which has been put, I think, your Excellency, that it was hardly necessary and hardly proper that such a question should be put. I need hardly say I think those who have followed my public career in this Colony know that I do not accept pay and that I have no intention of accepting pay for appearing in this Council and for any views which I may express in this Council. I think it would be obviously improper for me as a member of this Council to accept any fee, reward, or gratuity whatsoever in respect of any views which I may lay before this Council. As I have stated I was asked to prepare and did prepare in a professional capacity—and I think it will be found that I was perfectly right in so doing—these petitions which have been forwarded to this Council. These petitions were addressed to the hon. members of this Council. I do not know whether they were circulated. It rather seems to me they were not. At any rate I do not see them on the table. My position is perfectly clear, and I should have thought it was absolutely unnecessary that I should explain to this Council that I have not been paid any fee or reward and that I do not intend to accept any fee or reward for coming here to-day and stating my views to the Council.

HIS EXCELLENCY—I thank you. My questions were simply made to find out the hon. member's position.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Your Excellency, as I say, I do not know that these petitions have been circulated to hon. members.

HIS EXCELLENCY—They have been circulated.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Then from the learned Attorney-General's speech I gathered that they had not reached him or been sufficiently considered by him because we have been told with a great flourish of trumpets in this Colony by the learned Attorney-General of some wonderful discovery or alleged discovery made by the Government; that is to say, it is supposed to have been made by the Government on its own initiative—namely that of the people who signed this petition some only were exclusively employed in the business of opium pills or wine. Why, sir, that question is dealt with specifically in paragraph 1 of the petition. What is the wording? "Your petitioners have during the periods of years which are set opposite to their respective signatures been carrying on business in this Colony in (*inter alia*) either opium pills or opium wine or in both these articles." I should have thought, sir, that the words "*inter alia*" were sufficiently explicit, though in Latin and not in English, to convey that these gentlemen who brought in this petition in bringing it in were not and did not purport to be solely or exclusively employed or engaged in the sole

business of opium pills or wine and nothing else. The position they had taken up from the very outset was that it was not their sole business, but, sir, although it is not their sole business it is a business; and as my hon. and learned friend the senior member for the Chinese has pointed out it is a question of principle upon which a stand must be taken. A party has a perfect right to be protected in a legitimate business, and I shall show that this is a legitimate business. With regard to the learned Attorney-General, there is another point he tried to make, I think, and that was that the trade in these pills or wine was after all a comparatively small matter. But the hon. senior member for the Chinese drove him from that petition very effectively because he had afterwards to admit that you may call it small with regard to individual firms but in aggregate it is large. Why should a trade or business which is in the aggregate large and which is, I shall show lawful, be interfered with by the Legislature of this Colony? I submit, sir, there can be only one answer, and that is, because the opium farmer pays a very large sum yearly to the Government of this Colony. That is to say, that the Government have some fear, some apprehension, that unless some measure of this sort is passed to give the opium farmer rights additional to those which he already possesses the revenue may suffer some loss, and because of that fear, that apprehension, they propose to override these people who have been dealing in opium pills or wine, to take away their business from them, business which has hitherto been lawful and legitimate. Now, upon the point of this business hitherto carried on by dealers in these pills or wine being lawful and legitimate, it is only necessary to refer to the Ordinance, No. 21 of 1891. That, sir, in order to show what the rights of the opium farmer are, we must look at the law. It is tedious rather, but it is an important matter in this question. The hon. and learned senior member for the Chinese stated the matter in a very clear and lucid fashion, but lest perhaps some of his arguments might not have gone home I think it is very important that we should look at the Prepared Opium Ordinance and see from it what is the actual protection that has been accorded to the opium farmer. Of course in the grant which was made him he was given the privilege of dealing in prepared opium as defined by law. "Prepared opium" of course is an expression which may mean a great many different things. If a man came to a lawyer about a tender for prepared opium, the first question the lawyer would ask would be, "What do you mean by 'prepared opium'?" But here of course we know what is meant because we passed a special Ordinance to deal with it. It was passed 13 years ago, and therefore one would think that by the process of filtration in people's minds people would at all events have some idea of what was meant by "prepared opium." What did the Ordinance say about "prepared opium"? It was in Section 2 of the Ordinance in which prepared opium was defined and, sir, you will see it is not merely defined but is defined in such a way that shows clearly that it is defined for the express and specific purpose of considering how the privilege which is granted to the opium farmer to prepare opium shall so far as relates to the infringement of the opium farmer's privilege of preparing opium within this Colony mean—what shall it mean?—mean opium which has been subjected to any degree of artificial heat for any purpose whatever and shall include dross opium whenever such a construction is consistent with the contents. Well, sir, what could be clearer than that? There is not merely a definition of prepared opium there, but it is a definition of prepared opium which is expressly stated to relate to the infringement of the opium farmer's privilege. It is a provision of the law so that not merely the opium farmer but anybody else who deals in any way with any mixture of a chemical material in which opium occurs may know perfectly clearly what is meant by the words "prepared opium." And that, sir, was passed by the Legislature, that provision is enacted by the Legislature not merely for the purpose of informing the opium farmer but also for the purpose of informing other people. It is not merely necessary that the opium farmer

should know the extent to which he is protected but it is also necessary that other people should have it clearly defined what they may do or may not do *vis à vis* the opium farmer. Therefore this express provision was passed defining what prepared opium is to be, and it is expressly limited, as your Excellency will see, to opium which has been subjected to any degree of artificial heat for any purpose whatever, and I think it extremely probable, as the learned senior member for the Chinese has suggested, that the reason why that definition was adopted was that the Legislature intended to legislate for and had in their mind the preparation for the purpose of smoking, and that is probably the reason why these words are inserted there. Then, sir, as if to make the matter doubly clear, as if to make sure that there could be no possibility of mistake, farther down in the same section of Ordinance 21 of 1891 there is a definition of preparation. Preparation, the subjecting of opium of any kind to any degree of artificial heat for any purpose whatever, shall be taken to be the preparing of such opium. Therefore, sir, the test there in that definition of preparation, as in the test of prepared opium, is the test whether or not the opium has been subjected to any kind or degree of artificial heat. If it has not been subjected, if it does not fall within that, then no person in this Colony, no Magistrate, no Judge, no member of the executive can possibly say that that opium has been prepared.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—That Ordinance is a dead letter.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—That definition of prepared opium is expressly made with reference to the opium farmer's privilege. Now, in this matter, as has been shown by the petition from the dealers in opium pills or wine, they have been dealing in these pills and wine in this Colony for a great number of years. I think, analysing that petition, it would be seen that 16 of these firms out of the 83 have been dealing in this Colony unmolested in opium pills or wine for 30 years or over; 24 out of the 83 have been dealing, in this Colony, *inter alia* in pills or wine, for 20 years or over; and 40 firms—roughly half—have been dealing in these pills or wine in this Colony for ten years or over. Some have been going on actually for 50 years, and one 60 years. Therefore, as will be seen, it is a long-established business, and yet these people who have been carrying on this business without let or hindrance for so many years are classed by the Law Officer of the Crown as smugglers. They are put in the same category as the people who are running a blockade, acting in breach of the law, and the expression is used constantly by him of "illicit sales." What does "illicit" mean? "Illicit" means unlawful or contrary to law; and it is not unlawful or contrary to law to sell opium in any way which does not infringe the opium farmer's privilege or this Ordinance which was passed to back him up unless the opium comes within the definition of a preparation subjected to any degree of artificial heat for any purpose whatever. And preparation, I may mention, to make my meaning absolutely clear, in the definition is expressly stated as to be understood by the expression "preparing of opium." Preparation is the subjecting of opium of any kind to any degree of artificial heat and for that purpose shall be taken to be the preparing of such opium. Therefore it is quite clear what prepared opium means. It is quite clear what preparation means and what preparing means. The opium farmer stands or falls by this Ordinance. What has happened? Certain prosecutions—I do not know whether one or more—but at any rate a prosecution was instituted at the instance of the opium farmer at the Magistracy. The Magistrate decided that he could not possibly say it was prepared opium and dismissed the case. That so far as this Council is concerned disposes of the matter until it is brought before some higher tribunal for an absolute finding on the question of law. The opium farmer of course has his own legal advisers, and it is a matter which I think is well known that he has behind him some very clever and learned legal advisers, gentlemen who are perfectly able to protect his interests, and if they had considered that the decision of the Magistrate was wrong or in the smallest degree

open to question of course they would have advised him to take the matter at once up to the Supreme Court. Therefore to call these men smugglers was an entire misnomer. They were not smugglers at all. They were carrying on a business which so far as the decision of the Court was concerned had been decided to be legal. It has been decided at the Magistracy and the decision of the Magistrate must be taken by this Council; and I say without the slightest hesitation that the decision of the Magistrate was right. There has been no attempt to take the matter up before the higher tribunal; there had been no attempt to institute proceedings in any case but one, and the very able legal advisers at the back of the opium farmer felt that they could not do anything—that the case was hopeless. That was the only possible explanation of their not having taken the matter up to the Supreme Court.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Probably the Supreme Court would have said the Magistrate was right.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—To speak of these men as smugglers is preposterous when the Magistrate has decided that their business is legal.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—He did not decide that. He decided that in a certain case brought before him he would not say that the opium which had been sold had been subjected to any degree of heat. Now we propose to put in a clear definition in order to protect the opium farmer.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—If these people were liable to be proceeded against at law they would have been proceeded against; the matter would have been carried up to the higher Court. It was found that they could not be proceeded against and therefore it was entirely a misnomer to speak of them as illicit dealers or sellers. This trade has been carried on in this Colony not merely for ten but 50 and 60 years past. It is just as lawful and legitimate a business as selling sugar. Now, what is the position of the opium farmer? It is suggested or rather implied that he is being subjected to some hardship. I say to that emphatically, No. He has got exactly what he contracted for, what he tendered to get. Everybody is presumed to know the law, and it is unthinkable that in this particular case before the farmer tendered for this privilege he did not know that prepared opium is defined by law; indeed the case is made stronger because the present farmer was also the previous farmer. He was not new to the business: he went into it with his eyes open. He has tendered for this privilege of prepared opium as defined by law, and had got it. It might be an unfortunate thing for them, as the Attorney-General hinted in his speech, that this trade in pills was on the increase. This only showed there was a demand for them in this Colony, and as Dr. Ho Kai had pointed out it would be very unfair to interfere with these people who were carrying on this increasing business, the good will of which would also be increasing. The hon. Attorney-General had stated that the opposition was fictitious because it came from parties who were directly overridden and borne down by this proposed measure—the dealers. That was a most extraordinary argument to use. Supposing a law were passed to-morrow that no particular firms or persons but one should deal in stationery, would it be called fictitious because the other businesses dealing in stationery said this must be stopped; it is unfair as a portion of our business is being taken away. Surely such an opposition could not be described as fictitious? Surely the people dealing in this legitimate business proposed to be interfered with by this Bill have a better right than anybody else to say this legislation is unjust and unfair; it is doing away with a portion of our business: it is making our business which was previously carried on as legal and legitimate, unfair and unlawful, it is putting us entirely in the hands of the opium farmer; it is wiping out our business. Surely it is improper to describe the opposition of such people as fictitious? When the hon. Attorney-General referred to the opposition of the dealers he seems to have forgotten that there was in addition a petition from the general Chinese community of this Colony which was very numerous signed—there being 48 signatures of individual persons and 2178 of firms carrying on business

here, against this proposed measure; and in that petition, although I can well understand there may have been divergent opinions among doctors on the point, these petitioners mention that in their belief the taking of opium pills or wine does help to break the opium habit. Of course, some doctors may think one way and some the other, but these petitioners set their signatures to it. Your Excellency may possibly have omitted to note that in paragraph 4 of the petition these dealers submit, and can call witnesses in support of the submission, that the trade which they are carrying on in opium pills or opium wine is actually beneficial to the Chinese inhabitants of this Colony, on the ground that such pills and wine afford a means of rescue from the degrading vice of opium-smoking, such pills and wine containing many other ingredients in addition to opium or dross. These people say that they can call evidence on the point, and in the last paragraph of the petition they suggest that if the Government is not satisfied with what is stated here a commission should be appointed. Now, sir, what have the Government done? There has been a kind of secret investigation by the Registrar-General.

His EXCELLENCY—I do not think you are entitled to call it secret.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—It is entirely secret from this Council: that is what I mean.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Official.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—It is a purely unofficial enquiry so far as this Council is concerned.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—It is conducted by a high officer of the Government and must be official.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I do not agree with the Attorney-General. It is carried out by an official but is not official. At any rate it is not a public enquiry, or by a commission or some other public body such as parties have a right to expect at the hands of this Government. These parties are prepared to call witnesses to show that in some cases at all events the taking of opium pills has had beneficial effects in weaning people from the habit. I quite agree with the hon. Attorney-General—it is one of the few points on which I can agree with him—that it is a pity that people cannot rescue themselves from this habit by mere strength of will. We must all feel that, but we must also feel that some people are so constituted that these particular means are needed to wean them, no doubt gradually, from the habit of opium smoking; and I submit, sir, there being this strong body of Chinese opinion against this measure, that at all events the least the Government could do would be to hold a public commission of enquiry. I think it will be found that in England in recent times at any rate has such a measure as this been passed affecting several firms without full enquiry of some sort having been held into it. As I say, there seems to have been some sort of enquiry by the Registrar-General, but do not think so far as the Council is concerned that we know anything about the particulars, excepting your Excellency, the Attorney-General, and the Registrar-General. We as a body do not know to what extent the Registrar-General has probed into this matter, what enquiries he has made, or what answers he has got. We are only told a partial result of his negotiations by the Attorney-General. This is not a satisfactory way of dealing with the matter, and it is not a way which would commend itself to those who are most anxious as everybody should be not to interfere with people's business except after the fullest enquiry. Of course every member of this Council must feel that it is a big sum which the opium farmer has to pay for the monopoly in this Colony, but I agree with Dr. Ho Kai that that is a matter which ought to be—I am afraid it is not entirely—irrelevant to the present discussion. The question is whether this Council by passing this measure will be doing an act of justice or injustice and I submit that upon a private enquiry by a Government official the Government is not justified in putting through this measure without a commission being appointed, and then we shall see and probably be convinced that such a measure as this is desirable. But we cannot be convinced now. Here is a business to-day; you propose to make it illegal to-morrow, and as a foundation for that measure you have simply to go upon

the report of an officer of the Government who, I have no doubt, has gone into the matter to the best of his light; but still we do not know what has been the scope of his investigations, and it been conducted apparently from the point of view of the Government with the idea of supplying the Government with some answers to these petitions which have been sent in. I think the Registrar-General could hardly have approached the subject with an unbiassed mind. What is a decidedly unbiassed commission should be appointed and the whole question gone into. I need hardly point out that it is a general principle of law which is generally followed out by courts of law that so far as possible—so chary are our courts of depriving anybody of rights without compensation—an Ordinance or a statute should be construed in such a way as not to take away a man's rights without his receiving compensation. The courts always lean towards such construing of an Ordinance. They recognise that it is *prima facie* unjust to take away a man's business arbitrarily without compensation, and yet the Government proposes to take away these people's rights without giving them any compensation whatsoever. That, as Dr. Ho Kai pointed out, is a very important principle; the taking away of people's rights is very unjust and unfair, and a point upon which hon. members of Council should take a firm stand. It is radically unjust to take away people's rights in this way and members of Council should not be parties to it. It is most unsatisfactory that all we should have to go upon in coming to a decision on this matter is merely the report of a Government officer which is not before us at all. The Attorney-General stated that the opium farmer could come here to-day and say, "I stand upon my legal rights and demand nothing but justice." Language like that sounds very beautiful from the opium farmer to us, but he does not stand upon his legal rights; the drawback is that that is not correct. What he says is, "I find I have not sufficient rights; I want to be protected and I want sufficient legislation to support me." He does not stand upon his present legal rights at all. He wants the Government to alter the Ordinance, to extend his rights and privileges by law, and as showing that the farmer feels the weakness of his position, and that his legal advisers know it also, one has only to consider those sops which were referred to by the Attorney-General. The farmer in return for the business of the dealers in opium wine and pills which the Attorney-General admits to be large in the aggregate—for getting all this into his pocket he is prepared to do what I would do in his place—to dole out certain concessions. He does not stand upon his rights but wants his rights altered, and as the return for extending his rights at the expense of other people he doles out some concessions. That, sir, is his position. I do not know that there is any other point I should refer to, but it shows the disadvantage an unofficial is under when he comes here, for he finds the Government has prejudged the whole question.

His EXCELLENCY—I object to that remark of the hon. member that the Government come here with the whole case prejudged.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—I will explain. This Bill has been postponed for two months or nearly two months.

His EXCELLENCY—To meet the convenience of the hon. member.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Not on the last occasion. And now it has been brought on again. It means that the Executive of this Colony has decided that it is a good thing to pass this measure; and it is a well-known fact that the official members of this Council are not at liberty to express their individual or private opinions. Therefore unofficial members come here very often practically with their case prejudged.

THE COLONIAL SECRETARY—That is irrelevant.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—The Colonial Secretary may call it irrelevant, but it is a somewhat disheartening position for a member to occupy in this Council. The hon. member may think it irrelevant, but I think the correctness of it cannot possibly be denied. But if the matter has not been prejudged it seems to me that if your Excellency desires unbiassed opinion from the

members of this Council by leaving the official members absolutely free to vote as they like that will be a very fair solution of that difficulty. Again I say it is very unsatisfactory that the case should be before us without a commission having gone into it and the whole matter being threshed out. I oppose the second reading.

HON. GERSHOM STEWART—Your Excellency. I had no intention of addressing the Council on such a technical matter as opium until Mr. Pollock made his concluding remarks in which he left it to be inferred that the unofficial members were entirely with him in opposing this Bill. I have had one or two conversations about it and I must say I support the Government, and think their contention is quite a fair one in protecting the opium farmer in his monopoly. Opium is a subject of a very technical nature and one is naturally averse to giving an opinion about the inner workings of it. At the same time I think there are certain principles on which I fail to agree with Dr. Ho Kai and Mr. Pollock. It has been up to the present moment entirely a lawyer's battle. Into that battle I only enter with diffidence. At the same time it seems to me there are other aspects beside the strictly legal ones. I do not agree with Dr. Ho Kai and Mr. Pollock that the words of the Prepared Opium Ordinance settle the question altogether. The Ordinance lays down that prepared opium is that which has been subjected to artificial heat. You go a little further. What is artificial heat? It seems to me it is a reasonable contention to say that you cannot make opium into a pill without subjecting it to some heat, and it seems to me that it is heat other than that generated by the opium itself that must be used; I do not think these pills can come into being in the natural way. The legal aspect of it I will leave the lawyers to fight out. There is one point that seems odd and that is to find that there are 83 places which deal in opium. I thought there was only one. In that case we may have a thousand apparently. It is an unfair thing for these petitions to come here and say that these people who buy the pills are those who seek relief from the opium habit. Dr. Ho Kai has informed us that the opium farmer cannot deal in raw opium. Is it then bought at auctions here or is it brought into Hongkong? The Attorney-General's terms may appear harsh, but still this opium must be brought in clandestinely.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—It is brought in illicitly, secretly.

HIS EXCELLENCY.—If it is raw opium no one can have it in his possession in quantities of less than one chest.

HON. MR. STEWART.—The opium does not grow here so it must be brought in and if so that privilege of the farmer is being infringed. With regard to these small shops where the opium traffic is carried on, I think if they were allowed to multiply they would do the Colony a great deal of harm. The biggest mistake the Government could commit would be not to keep as much control as possible over that objectionable habit. The opium farmer in this case was, I think, acting quite within his rights in seeking protection from these small dealers. I understand the Government took steps to counteract the morphine habit. This Bill to-day is merely an application of the same principle. On moral grounds and on the general principle of fairness I think we should protect the opium farmer.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.—Your Excellency. I have nothing to withdraw of what I said. What I have said is that owing to the illicit introduction of opium into this Colony and the preparation thereof in the Colony and owing to the difficulty of prevention from the faulty language in the definition, the opium farmer requires that protection which an Ordinance alone can give him; that is the short and long of it. I have not come here with it prejudged, nor has the Government prejudged it. What the hon. member meant was that the Government had well considered the matter. We were forced to take this action because it was brought to the notice of this Council that in the matter of the introduction of opium into Hongkong the spirit of the Ordinance could be infringed if not the letter. The intention was to give the opium farmer in

return for a large sum of money paid into the revenue an exclusive monopoly. Once you admit the principle of a monopoly you are bound to admit the principle of the absolute and full protection of it. I will not take up the Council any more because I have fully explained the position of the Government. This is no new law. Hon. Mr. Pollock took the narrow view of it. Possibly he has an unconscious bias after he has been considering it professionally to those who object to this matter, and it may be that it will not be safe for us to follow blind-led where we should otherwise be prepared to go, if they were sure he was absolutely unbiassed in the matter. I can only say he has charged us with coming here with the case prejudged, but as he had been carefully considering and offering advice to those who opposed this measure, in the opinion of this Council his opposition to the Bill did not come with that weight which would otherwise attach to it. With regard to the prosecution at the Magistracy, which was brought by the opium farmer, the case failed because you cannot get a man to come forward and swear that he saw heat applied to it and therefore the Magistrate dismissed the case with costs. We now ask you to alter the definition so that the opium farmer may be protected from these illicit dealers. It was asked by the hon. member why the case was not taken to the Supreme Court. I do not know what the decision there might have been. What we ask this Council to do is to give effect to that protection of the opium farmer which it intended. Your Excellency I submit that nothing that has fallen from either the hon. member for the Chamber of Commerce or from Hon. Dr. Ho Kai—the first part of whose speech was extremely interesting historically—has any relevance to the subject, and I move that the Bill be read a second time.

HIS EXCELLENCY.—Gentlemen, the Government has been accused of bringing in this Bill to interfere with vested interests and thereby doing an injustice to certain traders in this Colony. In the first place I claim for the Government an absolute right of dealing with a drug like opium in any way, as it is the undoubted right of the Government to deal with the sale of alcoholic liquor in any way it pleases, or things like arms. Can it be denied that owing to the heavy increase in the arms licence the business of every Chinese arms dealer in this Colony has been absolutely closed, and can it be denied that the Government did that with their eyes open, of *malice prepense* if you so wish to call it raised the licence so high that we caused these arms dealers to close? Can anyone say that these men had a right to be compensated for the businesses that they lost? Can it be denied that various dealers in spirituous liquors have of late owing to the large increase in the price of licences closed their businesses? Or will anyone contend that they should be compensated because they can no longer afford to take out a licence. How did the opium farm ever come into existence? Did hon. members know that in days gone by the preparation of and dealing in opium was licensed out to licencees, and this Government for its own objects, wanting to control the traffic in opium, swept away all these licencees and put the licence in the hands of one man. Did anyone claim at the time that these licencees whose businesses had been swept away should be compensated? But while claiming the right to place this monopoly in the hands of one man to the exclusion of all others, I say that careful investigation shows that these petitioners, those of them who have been dealing in these pills, have got no real claim for consideration. They took out licences for three years, from 1895 till 1898, to deal in these pills. They admitted so when they were licensed they were trafficking in opium. Subsequently, owing to the smallness of their businesses, the opium farmer considered it not necessary to license them. Now the price for smoking opium has been enormously raised owing to the large increase in the fees, and the Government find that while the business of these dealers has increased, at the same time the sale of the opium farmer's opium has decreased. If we

believed that the trade of these dealers in pills and wine has increased because people wish to avoid the opium habit there might be something in their cry. But this is what we find written in one of the leading Chinese newspapers in an article against this very Bill. This shows, I think, what the real business of these opium pill dealers has been of late. "Swallowing anti-opium pills is more handy than smoking opium with lamp and pipe. Opium smokers who happen to be travelling or in mourning or watched by their parents or relatives prefer to use anti-opium pills as a substitute for opium. Prices for prepared opium will undoubtedly be raised on account of the fee for the opium monopoly being considerably increased. Coolies of the poorer class who cannot afford to smoke opium will be compelled to use anti-pills instead. If they cannot obtain anti-opium pills they will leave the Colony and the result will be a lack of coolie labour in the Colony." That is the way the man in the street looks at this Bill, a very different light indeed from that in which the objections to it have been presented to us. I find on investigation that the sale of opium pills in the Colony is about 9,000 bottles a year. Large bottles are sold at 25 cents and small ones at 11 cents. If we strike an average we will see that the sales amount to between \$2000 and \$3000 per annum, and this is the enormous and valuable trade that we are accused of interfering with. Gentlemen the only point to my mind that has been made to-day was perhaps that of the wholesale dealers of these pills who deal in them for the purpose of export. There are such dealers, and no doubt their trade is very much larger than that of the retail dealers who are simply trying to cut into the monopoly of the opium farmer. I do not know whether the Government would be able to arrange anything with the farmer in the matter of licensing these wholesale dealers and placing those valuable goods which come from Canton in bond while in the Colony and allowing them to export them out of bond; but on behalf of the Government I undertake to try and arrange something of the sort so that no suspicion of injustice may rest upon our heads. (Applause).

On a division there voted for the second reading—the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Registrar-General, the Colonial Treasurer, the Director of Public Works, the Harbour Master, Sir C. A. Chater, Hon. Gershom Stewart and Hon. W. J. Gresson (9); and against—Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, Hon. Wei Yuk, and Hon. H. E. Pollock.

The second reading was accordingly carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held after the Council, the Colonial Secretary (Hon. A. M. Thompson) presiding.

The following votes were passed:—

COTTON-GROWING IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$200 in aid of the vote Botanical and Afforestation Department, under Other Charges, for preliminary experiments in cotton-growing in the New Territories.

READJUSTMENT OF LOTS.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$34,700 in aid of the vote Public Works, Extraordinary, for readjustment of Kowloon Marine Lots 44-46 and Kowloon Inland Lots 887-897, Taikoksu.

TREE-PLANTING.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,500 in aid of the vote Botanical and Afforestation Department, Other Charges, for tree-planting.

This was all the business.

From the *Peking and Tientsin Times* we see that the Dallas Company's total receipts in Tientsin for seven nights were \$8,999, but on the last night a number of complimentary tickets were given to the guarantors and their friends. The Company only played four nights in Shanghai, and open here at the Theatre Royal to-morrow.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the 19th inst. in the Board Room. Hon. Dr. J. M. Atkinson presided, and there were also present Hon. P. N. Jones (Vice-President), Hon. A. W. Brewin, Registrar-General; Mr. Fung Wa Chun; Colonel W. E. Webb, B.A.M.C.; Mr. A. Rumjahn; Hon. H. E. Pollock, K.C.; Mr. E. A. Hewett; Dr. W. W. Pearse, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. F. J. Badeley, Captain Superintendent of Police; Dr. Barnett; and Mr. T. A. Hammer (Acting Secretary).

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

ESTIMATES FOR 1905.

A minute by the Medical Officer of Health recommended that certain works be provided for in the Estimates for Public Works for 1905.

The PRESIDENT said that with reference to this minute he did not know whether the members desired to consider the matter in committee. A mortuary at Yaumati required consideration, and also the matter of public bath houses at Kowloon and Western Street. The bath house for Chinese at Wanchai was a great success; the more they had the better. Moreover, if these were granted the temporary bath house at Western and Centre Streets could be done away with. He moved that a recommendation be forwarded to the Government.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded.

Mr. HEWETT supported the motion, saying he thought, from a sanitary viewpoint, that they had better have bath houses all over the City. The Chinese would use them very largely. The motion was put to the meeting and carried.

DRAINAGE OF THE CITY.

Further correspondence was laid on the table with reference to the drainage of the City.

Mr. Rumjahn minuted:—"I strongly object to the words 'sanitary surveyor' in Bye-law 27 as suggested by the Acting M.O.H. until the Colony has been provided with a proper qualified man, as those holding the same position in England must be civil engineers and must pass a certain examination in hygiene and public sanitation and are invariably members of the Sanitary Institute."

Mr. Lau Chu Pak:—"This should be referred to the sub-committee."

Mr. Hewett:—"Refer to the sub-committee."

The D. P. W.:—"I presume Mr. Rumjahn does not refer to the acting Sanitary Surveyor?"

Mr. RUMJAHN thought a qualified drainage surveyor should be provided for Hongkong, one of the largest shipping ports of the world.

The PRESIDENT proposed that they leave the matter to the committee already appointed. Mr. HEWETT seconded and it was carried.

EXTERNAL AIR.

Further correspondence was received relative to the question of external air in respect of Nos. 4 to 66, Bridges Street.

The PRESIDENT recommended an exemption be granted.

Mr. FUNG WA CHUN seconded and it was granted.

EXEMPTION.

The Board also considered an application for exemption from the requirements of Sub-section 4 of Section 188 of the Buildings Ordinance.

The PRESIDENT explained that this application was from the new hospital adjacent to the Nethersole Hospital. A great quantity of earth would have to be cut away to set the proper width. He proposed that exemption be granted.

Mr. HEWETT seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Further correspondence was considered relative to the application for exemption from the provisions of Sections 180 (1) and 141 of Ordinance 1 of 1903, in respect of No. 438, Des Vaux Road.

The PRESIDENT stated that these premises were to be used as a godown. If later they discontinued to be used as a godown the matter would have to come before the board again.

THE PEAK STATION.

A plan was submitted for a proposed urinal in the engine-house at the Peak Tramway terminus.

Mr. HEWETT said he went six times a day past this vicinity. At times there was no water

in the place at all, or, at all events, an exceedingly small supply.

The PRESIDENT, interrupting, said they were alluding to the water in the engine house.

Mr. HEWETT said he knew, but if they had no water in the engine house they could not use it—(laughter). Besides, that precious water should not be used for flushing urinals; it would be more appropriate for household purposes.

Colonel WEBB said that if the water went to waste it would be better to use it at the urinal. In the dry season they could use buckets. He made a proposition to this effect.

The PRESIDENT seconded.

Mr. HEWETT asked what was meant by the dry season. His coolies and other coolies eked out every drop of water from the place that they could.

Dr. ATKINSON said it was only intended to use the water that went through the engine.

Mr. HEWETT contended that this would not be sufficient to flush an urinal properly.

It was decided to make enquiries into the matter.

BAKEHOUSES.

Correspondence relative to the applications for Bake-house Licences, in respect of Nos. 21 and 30, Sham Shui Po, and the unsatisfactory condition of the drainage in that village was received.

The PRESIDENT moved that the application be granted on condition that the premises be kept clean, whitewashed, etc.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

Further correspondence relative to the application for a Bakehouse Licence, in respect of No. 34, Queen's Road Central, was also considered.

Mr. HEWETT thought that Mr. Weismann should be treated the same as anyone else. There should not be urinals unless a proper supply of water was provided. A bake house license might be granted on condition that the waterclosets be removed.

It was decided that if Mr. Weismann could get an independent supply of water he could use the closets.

RAT RETURN.

It was reported that during the fortnight ended 16th May 1,050 rats, of which 9 were infected, were caught.

WATER ANALYSIS.

The Government Analyst reported that his analysis of the public water supplies showed the water to be of excellent quality.

COLLISION BETWEEN HONGKONG AND CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Canton, 19th May.

The night steamer *Taion* has been in collision with the *Kwangtung* off the Salt Flats, near Whampoa.

It is understood that the *Kwangtung*, at the time, was endeavouring to avoid a fishing-junk, which was sunk.

The *Taion*, as far as I can gather, struck the *Kwangtung* on the port quarter.

Both steamers sustained heavy damage, amounting, perhaps, to \$15,000.

Passengers had to take native boats to come to Canton.

[The *Kwangtung* is a steamer belonging to the Yuen On S.S. Co. Ltd., running between Hongkong and Canton in conjunction with the Shin On s.s. *Kwongchow*. The *Taion* is a river steamer belonging to the Tai On S.S. Co., Ltd.—Ed. D.P.]

THE DALLAS CO. AT THE THEATRE ROYAL.

The Dallas Company opened at the Theatre Royal for a second short season on Monday last. *Kitty Grey* was the piece selected for the first night and it was repeated on Tuesday with fair success. On Wednesday the Company played *Florodora* to a good house. Mr. Percival Knight as usual greatly amused the audience, his part being that of Anthony Tweedlepunch, the phrenologist. Mr. Frank Cochrane ably personated Frank Abercald, and Mr. Albert E. Rees took the role

of Cyrus W. Gilfain, proprietor of the Island of Florodora. Dolores, the heroine, was pleasingly impersonated by Miss Ernestine Watson. The piece proved a good "hit."

On Thursday the Dallas Musical Dramatic Company were again favoured with a very fair house, when they reproduced the ever popular musical comedy *Florodora*. As in the previous performance the principal parts were sustained with considerable animation, and the pleasing witticisms of Anthony Tweedlepunch, so ably impersonated by Mr. Percival Knight, were undoubtedly the feature of the performance. One and all worked hard to make the play a success, and taking into consideration the drawbacks consequent upon the time of the year, the evening's performance was quite up to the standard expected of this well-known company.

AMOY.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Amoy, 13th May.

SOCIAL NEWS.

Dr. Merz has returned from Tsinanfu and resumed charge of the German Consulate here. Mr. J. J. Dunne, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s Agent, is shortly proceeding to Shanghai, his successor, Mr. A. E. Allen, having already arrived. Mr. Dunne's departure will cause a vacancy in the Kulangsu Municipal Council.

NAVAL MOVEMENTS.

We have been exceptionally well favoured with visits from man-of-war lately. H.I.I. d.'s *Vettor Pisani* left for Singapore homeward bound on 30th ult., the *Marco Polo* also sailing same day, for Shanghai. U.S.S. *Frolic* from Chefoo left for Cavite on 2nd after a short stay. Our old friend H.M.S. *Rumbler* arrived from Hongkong on 2nd inst. and will be here or in the vicinity for some months; her last survey is being finished off and additional work done on-side the entrance to Amoy. The Chilean training-ship *General Baquedano* put in here for a day or two whilst on her way from Hongkong to Shanghai; she experienced rather heavy weather on the way up.

The British fleet is honouring us with a brief visit, having arrived last Wednesday. The vessels are H.M.S. *Glory*, *Albion*, *Ocean*, *Vengeance*, *Centurion*, and *Amphitrite*. This is probably the most powerful squadron that has visited Amoy, and the formidable appearance presented by the ships as they steamed into port in two columns was the subject of much satisfied comment amongst the spectators who turned out to view the arrival of the fleet.

The latest arrival is H.M.S. *Sirius*; she will leave to-morrow for Hongkong and Singapore.

CANTON.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

BUTCHERS ON STRIKE.

Some days ago all the butchers in Chinohow Prefecture went on strike, their grievance being a new tax. Merchants, traders, etc., fearing that they also would be likewise burdened, caused anonymous posters (saying that a heavy combination would with violence oppose the new tax) to be placarded liberally. A few days later, when the military and others went to the Confucius Temple to hold service, the incensed populace surrounded the building, threatening to set fire to it. The Hoiyeung District Magistrate thereupon sent out yamen-runners to make arrests. As the runners were helpless against the mob, who stoned them, the Taotai called out a company of soldiers to escort the officers from the temple to his yamen. The rioters then made an attack on the Butcher-tax Farmer's house, taking out his furniture and burning it. Officials became greatly excited as rumours were current to the effect that members of the Santim Society were persuading the people to seize the city. Next day the gates were closed at 2 p.m.

The Taotai, after "hanging fire" a little longer, had to give way; he personally visited each street and asked the storekeepers to resume business.

CHARGE AGAINST A MAGISTRATE.

Viceroy Shum is making a charge against Pui King Fook, the late Namhoi magistrate. He has engaged three Portuguese lawyers from

Macao, who have secured three witnesses, clerks in the Namhoi Magistry, for the prosecution.

EAST RIVER.

The Viceroy proposes to establish a Water Police Station on the East River, near Sheklung. It is to be composed of two officers and 62 constables, etc. Boats, both large and small, will now have to be registered. \$480 paid monthly as a tax by four junks trading regularly between Canton and Sheklung, towed by steam-launches, is in part to defray expenses of the scheme.

SUPREME COURT.

Monday, 16th May.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

A CHINESE BANK'S FAILURE.

The partners of the Po Fung bank came up for public examination in bankruptcy. Mr. H. W. Looker, of Messrs Deacon, Looker, & Deacon, solicitors, appeared for Kwong Kam Nam, one of the partners. Various creditors were represented by Mr. J. Hastings, solicitor; Mr. S. W. Tso, solicitor; Mr. E. A. Bonner, of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley, solicitors; and Mr. F. Paget Hett, of Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton's office.

Kwong Kam Nam, partner in the firm, examined by the Official Receiver (Mr. Bruce Shepherd), said there was one other partner in the business, which was started in September or October, 1901. Before that he was in California. He put \$38,000 in cash into the business.

Mr. Hastings at this stage objected to the presence of the debtor's partner in the Court during his examination. It was alleged on behalf of the creditors that these two men were fraudulently concealing from the Court that they had other partners, rich men, fully capable of paying the debts of the firm. One of them had made statements in writing as to these partners, which statements they had got in their hands. Yet now the debtors claimed that they had no partners. He thought it was important that the two debtors should be examined separately.

The Official Receiver did not think there was any objection to the presence of the other debtor during the examination of his partner. They were co-debtors.

His Lordship held that it was not necessary that the partner should be out of Court.

Examination continued—His partner Chung Kai Yu put \$5,000 into the business. No other people put any capital in. They carried on business as Chinese bankers, advancing money on promissory notes and scrip shares. When the receiving order was made they had advanced in this manner \$140,000 (odd) principal. They owed people nearly \$120,000. When their friends deposited money with them they were paid simple interest at market rates. The rate of interest was about one per cent. a month. Now it was not so much—about six-tenths per cent. He did nothing in the business but keep the keys. The taking in and paying out of money was done by apprentices. He never took any money out of the safe on his own account. His partner owed the bank \$4,800 and had also advanced to him \$55,000 as partner of the Yee Chung firm. When he was in California he kept a pawnshop. He found out that the bank was insolvent in March of this year. There was a run on the bank. At that time their liabilities amounted to nearly \$120,000 and assets to about \$140,000 in promissory notes, etc. If all the bank's creditors had paid, the bank would have had more than sufficient to meet their liabilities. His partner drew out from the bank for another business of his at Kongmoon a further sum of \$15,000, making in all \$69,000 that he drew out. When Chung Kai Yu took that money out he said he was in a position to pay it back. He was to pay interest on it. When the run on the bank commenced they borrowed money to stave off the demands upon them. He did not know how much they borrowed. He was not aware that the books of the firm showed that they received \$99,000 between 1st February and 9th

March. He did not know how that money was spent.

Chung Kai Yu, the other partner in the bank, deposed that he had been a banker for nine years. He joined the Po Fung bank about three years ago. The \$5,000 he put into the business was his own money and was paid in cash.

By his Lordship—No one except Kwong Kam Nam and himself had any interest in the Po Fung bank at present. He did not know about partners: Kwong Kam Nam would know about that. In Chinese firms there were big and little shares. He and Kwong Kam Nam held the big shares. When the business was floated Kwong Kam Nam told him the names of some small shareholders—Kwong Yat Hong, Kwong Yick Nam, Lai Yu Fong, Ma Fo Tsai, and Ho Yat Hing. These names did not appear in the partnership book.

The examination was afterwards adjourned.

Tuesday, 17th May.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

LAND COURT APPEAL CASE.

Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. J. Scott Harston, of Messrs. Ewens & Harston, solicitors), appeared in support of a motion for leave to appeal to the Full Court against a decision of the Land Court in respect to certain foreshore land near Lai-chikok, in the New Territory. The Crown was represented by the Attorney-General, Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor).

Mr. Slade stated that the appellant was Tang Tsu U, 54, Hollywood Road, and the land concerned was Claim C.A., Survey District No. 4. It was an appeal against a judgment of the President of the Land Court dated 18th February, 1904, a decree that on 20th August, 1906, the grants to the appellant herein became voidable and might have been cancelled by the Chinese Government at any time by the non-fulfilment of the terms on which they were issued, and that the Government of Hongkong had the right to cancel the said grants by reason of having succeeded to the rights of the Government of China on 1st July, 1898, on the ground that the said portion of the said judgment was erroneous both in fact and in law, and on the ground that the evidence of the witness Lau Chi Peng was improperly admitted.

Having heard counsel.

His Lordship, without indicating any opinion as to whether or no the President of the Land Court was wrong upon any of the points mentioned by counsel, gave the appellant leave to appeal to the Full Court, subject to his giving security to the satisfaction of the Registrar to the amount of \$2,500 for costs, in the terms of his motion paper, provided such appeal be brought within three months.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

ALLEGED BREACH OF CONTRACT.

Ho Chan Tong, carrying on business as the Shing Kee firm of Chantsun, near the boundary of the New Territory on the Chinese side, and presently residing at 94, Bonham Strand East, sued Cheung San, master of the junk Tsun Hing (259H), also of Chantsun, for \$332 damages in respect of breach of contract to deliver certain goods shipped from Chantsun on board defendant's junk to the Ko Wa Lung Kee firm, 94, Bonham Strand East. Mr. E. A. Bonner, of Messrs. Dennys and Bowley, solicitors, appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. G. K. Hall Brutton, solicitor, for the defendant.

Mr. Bonner stated that upon 25th March the plaintiff shipped 60 bundles of Chinese paper consigned to the Ko Wa Lung Kee of Hongkong. He was a merchant who frequently had goods consigned to him which he sent to various firms in Hongkong, and he had to pay duty to the Chinese Customs. The consignees, the Ko Wa Lung Kee, had previously traded as the Ko Wa: it was in March that they changed their style. The goods were shipped on board

defendant's junk, but were not delivered to the Ko Wa Lung Kee. The owner of the junk brought back a receipt purporting to be chopped by the firm.

After hearing witnesses.

His Lordship non-suited the plaintiff with costs on the ground that he was not the proper party to bring this action, he not being owner of the goods but simply having been employed to forward them.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

Wednesday, 18th May.

BEFORE SIR W. M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

ALLEGED ARSON.

Tam Wan, a Chinaman, was charged, with setting fire to a dwelling house, persons being therein. Sir H. Spencer Berkeley (Attorney-General) prosecuted, and Mr. N. H. Slade, barrister-at-law, instructed by Mr. P. W. Goldring, solicitor, of Mr. John Hastings's office, appeared on behalf of the defendant.

Prisoner pleaded not guilty.

The following jurors were empanelled:—Messrs. Alfredo Maria Roza, Charles Lee, Isaac Turner, Albert Schmidtborn, Arthur Pearson Goodwin, Edward Stephen, and Sassoon Ezra Moses.

In opening the case the Attorney-General said the facts were that on the 9th April a fire occurred at No. 138, Wellington street, a four story house. The fire broke out in the early hours in the morning between two and three o'clock. At this house the occupant of the second floor had insurances, covering furniture, goods, clothing, etc., totaling \$4,000. These insurances had been issued all within a month, under the name of Pun Tak. On the 9th March the men in question had taken out a policy for \$2,000, on the 18th March another policy for \$1,000, and on the 24th March a third for \$1,000. All the policies were for the second floor. The fire occurred, as previously mentioned, on the 9th April, a few days after the last policy was taken out. People were living both above and below the second floor. When the police arrived shortly after the fire had started the second and third floors were burning fiercely. The fire, therefore, started either on the second or third floor; there was no fire on the first floor. Each floor was let to separate tenants. The ground floor was occupied by a shoemaker and a silversmith, the first by a family house, second by defendant, and third by a storekeeper. A witness of the second floor would state that she first saw the fire on the staircase leading from the first to the second floor. The prisoner and his wife were servants to Hung Hang Chi but at the time of the fire this man was at Canton. The theory of the prosecution was first that Hung Hang Chi had gone to Canton, leaving the other man to burn the house. The tenant on the first floor was awakened by cries of "fire," and getting up saw fire on the stairs half-way between the first and second floors. This person got water and put out the flames; there were bundles of fire-wood on the stairs. This witness also saw a room on the second floor burning. He ran down the stairs and commenced to remove his boxes. Another witness who saw fire on the stairs ran out and gave an alarm. A man living next door heard shouts from his neighbours, and forced his way through a partition on the verandah, with the result that he found a quantity of paper lanterns burning. No one saw the prisoner set fire to the house—it was very rare in arson cases that anyone did. There were three fires:—one fire in the room, one on the stairs, and one on the verandah.

Evidence was led.

Included among the witnesses were the persons spoken of by the Attorney-General. Police Inspector Gourlay said he was the first of the Police Force to see the fire. He judged that it must have started in the back part of the building.

Mr. Judah, of Messrs. Turner & Co., was called upon to give evidence regarding the first mentioned insurance policy. The Attorney-General asked him a leading question as to the premises. Mr. Slade rose to his feet and vigorously objected to the Attorney-General's question. Witness

said that the premises insured were the top floor and not the second floor.

Further evidence went to show that Pun Tak and Hing Hang Chi were the same man.

On the Attorney-General closing his case Mr. Slade said that he had no witnesses.

The Attorney-General read a statement by the prisoner, afterwards saying that on the man's own admission he was left in charge of the premises in question. Prisoner had told a story about another man bringing powder in a paper and spirits-of-wine to the house he was in charge of. Why did he let this man bring these things in? Prisoner's wife and this man had escaped, so prisoner naturally put the blame on them. He affirmed that the jury had quite sufficient circumstantial evidence to return a verdict of guilty.

Mr. Slade with remarkable ability impressed on the minds of the jurors that the crime of arson was a very serious one, and the jury therefore had to be very careful that they had the right man before they convicted the prisoner. It was their duty to convict if they had no reasonable doubt as to the man's guilt—and only so. In all other circumstances they must give defendant the benefit of the doubt, it being the duty of the Crown to prove the man guilty—not the duty of prisoner to prove himself innocent. Mr. Slade continuing picked the evidence of each to pieces, proving that the sum total of it proved nothing. The really guilty person was not in custody.

After his Lordship had summed up the jury returned a verdict of "not guilty" by 5-2.

Thursday, 19th May.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

Ng Tseung, an old Chinaman, and Hon Him, his wife, were charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of law and justice by pretending to the Squatters' Board that the first prisoner was the lessee of a plot of Government ground at Mati (the lessee being in fact dead), by which means the lease was allowed by the Squatter's Board; the man was also charged with committing several fraudulent acts before the Board thereby obtaining the lease.

They pleaded not guilty, and were defended by Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C. (instructed by Mr. F. Paget Hett, solicitor, of Mr. G. K. Hall Bruton's office).

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. P. C. Cunningham, F. W. White, S. E. Moses, J. T. d'Almada e Castro, R. Walpole, A. Schmidtborn, and L. Kerr.

The Attorney-General, Hon. Sir Henry S. Berkeley (instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), appeared for the Crown. In opening the case, he said the prisoners were charged with manufacturing false evidence for the purpose of obtaining from the Squatters' Board a claim to a plot of land which without these false statements would not have been allowed. The Squatters' Board was a Board presided over by the Puisne Judge, which adjudged upon these claims to land. There was a man named Chan Cheung who used to cultivate some Crown land at Mati as a squatter. He held a squatter's licence for three-and-a-half acres of land. This squatter's licence was for one year, renewable every year, and was transferable. In 1896 this man Chan Cheung lodged a claim with the Squatters' Board for a Crown lease of the land for which he held a squatter's licence. Chan Cheung was an old squatter; his family had been there a long time. There were a good many such claims heard before his claim came on. Chan Cheung had died. He died in May, 1898. Defendants were aware of this fact. There was a son called Chan Tso who would tell the jury that in September of the same year that his father died the female defendant came to him and offered him, a child, \$20 a year for a lease of this land for cultivation purposes. The boy was induced to let the land for that rental.

Mr. Sharp (interposing) said it was incorrect to call the son a child; he was 21 years of age now.

The Attorney-General remarked that was detail. At any rate he could not have been more than 15 or 16 years of age at the time. The woman and her husband got the lease. Chan Tso left the land and went to live at Chungshawa, giving the defendants the squatter's lease held by his father. Defendants went to live on the plot, built a hut, and adopted the name of the deceased Chan Cheung in whose name the lease was made out. When the annual squatter's rent became due the defendants went to the Treasury and paid it, passing themselves off as Chan Cheung and Chan Cheung's wife. In March of 1904, Chan Tso, the original squatter's son, went to the woman and asked her for his father's squatter's licence. She said she had lost it. Chan Tso was not satisfied with this and he went to a solicitor, Mr. John Hastings, for advice. Then it was discovered that the defendants had been before Mr. Wakeman, the secretary of the Squatters' Board, and had filed a new claim to his land, the male defendant stating that he was Chan Cheung and the woman that she was Chan Cheung's wife. That was a deliberate act of manufacturing false evidence for the purpose of deceiving the Board. Defendants, although aware of the fact that Chan Cheung was dead, had concealed that fact from the Squatters' Board and had not communicated it to the Public Works Department, leaving them to assume that Chan Cheung was alive and that the male defendant was he. The evidence of the officials of the Squatter's Board and its records showed the following conclusions. The male defendant deliberately signed Chan Cheung's name to his claim with the intention of having the claim allowed by the Squatter's Board. On 19th February, 1904, he signed his name as being Chan Cheung, and on 17th March his claim was heard by the Board and was allowed to him as being Chan Cheung. On 24th March, the two defendants, Chan Tso, the son, and Mr. Goldring, his solicitor, were in the Land Office. The male prisoner there stated to the Squatters' Board that he was Chan Cheung and the woman Chan Cheung's wife; also that he had appeared before the Board on 7th March as Chan Cheung and that he was the same Chan Cheung who had signed the old claim in 1896.

Evidence was taken for the prosecution and the hearing was afterwards adjourned till to-day.

HONGKONG.

The *Eclipse* arrived from Mirs Bay on the 18th inst.

The U.S. gunboat *Callao* left for up-river on the 18th inst.

It is with regret that we have to record the death of Mr. William Ralph Seymour, assistant master at Queen's College. Mr. Seymour was admitted to the Government Civil Hospital a few days ago and died on the 17th inst.

On Monday afternoon H.M.S. *Hart* was run into by a steam launch called the *Lai Wo* in the harbour. The bow of the launch struck the *Hart* amidships near the engine-room. The *Hart* sustained considerable damage, it is reported, but was able to regain anchorage. She is a torpedo-boat destroyer of 275 tons, with six guns and an i.h.p. of 4000. When the collision occurred, a Chinese woman fell off the launch and was drowned. The coxswain of the launch was arrested by the water police.

A meeting of Mercantile Marine officers sailing out of Hongkong was held last week in the Connaught Hotel, and as a result it has been decided to form a club. A club-room has been engaged in the Connaught Hotel for a period of three months, and if the movement meets with success there will be permanent quarters established. The name of the club is the Marine Officers' Association. It will fill a long standing want in shipping circles in Hongkong and the China coast. The rooms will be opened on the 1st June. On the 5th of the same month a meeting will be held for the purpose of electing officers and making arrangements for the working of the association. Captain Robinson, of the s.s. *Ying King*, has been appointed secretary and treasurer, and a temporary working committee has been elected. A considerable number of members have been enrolled already.

On Sunday the golfers of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank beat Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s representatives by the margin of one match.—Mr. T. S. Forrest on Wednesday defeated Mr. C. W. May for the golf championship.

Visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum during week ended 15th inst. were:—Library, 94 Chinese, 225 non-Chinese; Museum, 1,616 Chinese, 88 non-Chinese.

Mr. Cheung Tsoi, Third Clerk at the Magistracy, has resigned his position. After many years' hard work he some time ago secured the position of Third Clerk, and from that he was transferred to the Land Court on a higher salary. Later, however, he went back to his old position, Third Clerk at the Magistracy. On Tuesday Mr. Gompertz called the clerical staff, etc., into his room to wish Mr. Cheung Tsoi good-bye. Mr. Cheung had been 18 years in the Government service, but was leaving to take up a better position.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A new church was consecrated in the British concession at Hankow on the 1st inst., under the name of the Church of St. John the Evangelist.

Mr. W. A. Carlson has been promoted to the substantive appointment of Harbour Master at Shanghai, which has not been filled since the death of the late Mr. A. M. Bisbee. Mr. Carlson has been Acting Harbour Master for some time.

The following appointments were made last month at the Admiralty:—Lieutenant J. A. Gregory, to the *Tamar* for the *Janus*, in command, to date April 4. Sub-Lieutenant J. M. Ogilvie, to the *Tamar* for the *Janus*, to date April 4.

Japan has placed large orders both in England and on the Continent for material for construction of torpedo-boats. The material is to be delivered with the utmost possible despatch. One British firm alone is said to have received an order for material for the building of ten destroyers.

The Ngranlufu (Hupeh) correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes:—We hear that there has been an attack upon a Russian priest at a town some hundred miles from here, near Hankow. The feeling against the Russians is very strong, hence this attack on the Russian missionary. The whole of his effects are said to have been destroyed and his house pulled down. A weiyuan is said to have been sent up to institute an enquiry.

It appears that the Empress Dowager of China recently sat to a Japanese photographer. She is said to have given permission to sell her photographs to the public. Her Majesty has been led to do so by hearing the wife of a certain foreign Minister say that the Emperors and Kings of Europe allow their photographs to be sold to their subjects, who always place their sovereigns' portraits in the most honoured position in the household.

The body of Charles Hotson, Engineer-Artificer of H.M.S. *Roario*, has been found in the river at Shanghai off the French Bund. The unfortunate man was last seen alive about 1 a.m. on the 1st instant, and it is believed he met with foul play. The body was badly decomposed and could only be identified by his clothing. His pockets were out and his watch and chain missing, the only articles found on him being his sleeve-links. When last seen he was leaving for his ship in a sampan from a point near the Astor House.

The death occurred at Penang on the 10th inst. of the Hon. James Montague Bent Vermont, C.M.G., Member of the Straits Legislative Council. Deceased was one of the oldest Straits residents. He came out in the early sixties and from the first was associated with the Batu Kawan sugar estate, of which he was manager first, succeeding to the managing proprietorship in the late eighties. He was at the time of his death one of the proprietors of the Prye sugar estates. He held several minor Governmental offices in the Colony, and had been a Justice of the Peace and Police Magistrate for Province Wellesley. He was granted the honour of Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1901, and when he retired from the Legislative Council was allowed to retain the title of Honourable.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 7th May, 1904. The first crop is estimated at about 4,500 bales which will mostly consist of market cargo. The majority of Filature Houses have reduced their production in new silk owing to the bad quality and very high prices of cocoons ruling in the country. Filatures.—During the fortnight under review the market has become quieter, but, certain descriptions being very scarce, prices remain rather steady for suitable silk. From sales made we quote for 6th crop silk:—Kwong Shun Cheong and Kwong Shun Ching 11/13 at \$890, Wing Wo Hing 9/11 at \$840, Kwong Wo Tai 13/15 at \$825. Short-reels.—Little has been done in this silk for America, the stock on the spot being almost nil. Buyers show some interest for forward deliveries, but dealers are not inclined to sell ahead. Waste Silk.—The market is firm for 5th and 6th crop Waste, further supplies of which are only expected to a small extent.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Son of Shanghai, in their Circular, dated 11th inst., state:—The home markets are quiet. Gold Kiling is quoted in London at 11/- and in Lyons at Fcs. 30.50. Raw silk.—Very little business is reported either in Tsatlees or Coarse Silks. Yellow Silks.—A few small settlements are reported at prices given below. Hand Filatures.—A fair business has been done chiefly in lower grade chops. The supply of Crack Chops is practically exhausted. Steam Filatures.—Very little business has been done. Tus-sahs.—A large business has been done in Native Tus-sahs as well as Tus-sah Filatures. Waste.—Very quiet.

SUGAR.

The Kobe Market Report, dated 3rd May, states:—Hongkong Refined.—No business has been transacted since the increased Consumption Tax came into operation, dealers being fully stocked. Beet.—The market continues lifeless with scarcely any change in quotations. Osaka Refined.—An auction takes place to-day.

Hongkong, 20th May.—The prices are the same as when last reported.
 Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.40 to \$8.45 pcls.
 Do. " 2, White..... 7.55 to 7.60 "
 Do. " 1, Brown..... 5.95 to 6.00 "
 Do. " 2, Brown..... 5.80 to 5.85 "
 Swatow, No. 1, White..... 8.25 to 8.30 "
 Do. " 2, White..... 7.40 to 7.45 "
 Do. " 1, Brown..... 5.80 to 5.85 "
 Do. " 2, Brown..... 5.65 to 5.70 "
 Foochow Sugar Candy12.75 to 12.80 "
 Shekloong "10.90 to 10.95 "

RICE.

Hongkong, 20th May.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.
 Saigon, Ordinary\$2.75 to \$2.80
 " Round, good quality 3.90 to 3.95
 " Long 4.05 to 4.10
 Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 2.80 to 2.85
 " Garden, " No. 1 3.25 to 3.30
 " White, 4.35 to 4.40
 " Fine Cargo 4.45 to 4.50

OPIUM.

Hongkong, 19th May.

The movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Malwa, Patna, Benares, Persian.				
Stocks as per circular of				
5th May, 1904.	1,452	2,250	1,237	2,484
May, 6th Imports per	Simla	299	150	125
" 10th " "	Sui Sang	—	150	85
" 18th " "	Lightning	—	65	100
	1,751	2,005	1,597	2,635
Less Exports to Shanghai	274	298	30	—
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight	184	532	94	50

Estimated Stocks this day .. 1,313 1,775 1,423 2,555

Bengal.—Owing to the accumulation of stocks in consequence of a falling off in the deliveries buyers have been holding aloof and prices have declined considerably. We quote old and new Patna @ \$1 315 and old and new Benares @ \$1.295.

Malwa.—Small shipments and the increase of Rs. 100 in the duty in India have caused prices advance and the market closes very firm. We quoted:—

New	\$1,020/1,080
2 years old	\$1,060/1,080
3 " "	\$1,100/1,130
4-5 " "	\$1,200
Oldest	\$1,250

† Persian.—Quotations are \$850 to \$900 for best qualities.

13th May.

Quotations are:—Allowance net to 1 catty.
 Malwa New\$1020 to \$1060 per picul.
 Malwa Old\$1080 to \$1120 do.
 Malwa Older\$1140 to 1200 do.
 Malwa V. Old\$1220 to 1250 do.
 Persian fine quality\$880 to — do.
 Persian extra fine\$900 to — do.
 Patna New\$1315 to — per chest.
 Patna Old\$1315 to — do.
 Benares New\$1295 to — do.

COAL.

The arrivals of coal up to date at Hongkong have been 61,200 tons of Japanese coal and 3,000 tons of Welsh coal, all sold; and 27,600 tons of Japanese coal are expected to arrive shortly.

COTTON.

Hongkong, 20th May:—Limited sales only, Stock about 2,100 bales.

Bombay 29.00 to 30.00 picul
 Bengal (New), Rangoon } 29.00 to 32.00 "
 and Dacca "
 Shanghai and Japanese, 31.50 to 32.50 "
 Tungchow and Ningpo, 31.50 to 32.50 "
 Sale:—100 bales.

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee, in his report, dated Hongkong, May 20th, says:—The market is showing signs of returning activity, and we look for higher prices. Receipts are now on a smaller scale, and holders are firmer, but prices are slow to move. Dealers are becoming anxious buyers, and as the stock of best spinnings is all but exhausted, are enquiring for favourite chops to arrive at an advance on quotations. Medium and common threads are still out of favour, but we think will have to be taken in the absence of best. A steady business has been done throughout the fortnight, some 8,000 bales changing hands as noted at foot, rates showing a slight advance of 50 cents to a dollar per bale. At the close there is further enquiry for good to best spinnings, but shortness of supplies is affecting business.

Local Manufacture.—With the exception of a sale of 500 bales No. 10s at \$112 to \$114 to local dealers during the interval there has been no free buying of our mill production by northern buyers for some time past. The chief factor at work is alleged to be the continued disturbed state of affairs in Shantung, the principal outlet for this thread.

Japanese Yarns.—Are firmer owing to reduced stock and more enquiry; total business of the interval amounting to sales of about 1,500 bales Shensu and Settsu No. 20s at from \$133½ and \$137½ respectively, delivery in six to eight weeks.

Raw Cotton:—There has been a slight movement in Indian descriptions principally brought about by heavy concessions in rates to which the majority of importers decline to submit. Sales reported are 350 bales Superfine Bengal at from \$28 to \$30. Estimated unsold stock about 1,000 bales. China cotton is quiet with nothing doing. Stock 300 bales. Quotations are Indian \$29 to \$32 and Chinese \$31 to \$33.

Exchange on India has fluctuated slightly and closes to-day at Rs. 133 for T/T and Rs. 133½ for Post. On Shanghai 72 and on Yokohama 88½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinnings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ending 6th instant, viz:

Indian:—In good demand, prices showing an advance of 1 to 2 Taels and market closing strong. Total sales 10,528 bales comprising 5,015 bales No. 10s, 2,150 bales No. 12s, 325 bales No. 16s, and 3,038 bales No. 20s. Estimated unsold stock 22,000 bales.

Japanese:—With a stronger demand for No. 16s, sales of about 2,500 bales are reported, say No. 16s at Tls. 93½ to 99½ and No. 20s at Tls. 100 to 102½, the latter showing a weaker tendency.

Local:—Market steady, prices showing little or no change, total sales 1,500 bales on the basis of Tls. 88½ for No. 10s, Tls. 90½ for No. 12s, Tls. 92 for No. 14s, Tls. 95 for No. 16s and Tls. 99½ for No. 20s.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

Hongkong, 20th May.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...\$ 90.00 to \$128.00
 English—Nos. 16 to 24, ... 114.00 to 120.00
 " 22 to 24, ... 120.00 to 128.00
 " 28 to 32, ... 136.00 to 142.00
 " 38 to 42, ... 155.00 to 170.00
 Reported sales 100 bales.

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

per piece
 Grey Shirtings—6 lbs. 2.30 to 2.40
 7 lbs. 2.50 to 2.80
 8.4 lbs. 3.50 to 4.25
 9 to 10 lbs. 4.30 to 5.50

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

per piece
 White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.90 to 3.25
 58 to 60 " 3.50 to 4.00
 64 to 66 " 4.25 to 5.75
 Fine 6.00 to 8.50
 Book-folds 5.00 to 8.00
 Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.85 to 1.75
 T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 2.30 to 2.80
 7lbs. (32 ") " 2.50 to 3.00
 6lbs. (32 ") Mexs. 2.50 to 3.00
 7lbs. (32 ") " 3.10 to 3.30
 8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 3.30 to 4.05
 Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ to 14 lbs. } 4.75 to 7.30

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs. } 2.00 to 4.50

Brocades—Dyed 0.14 to 0.15

DAMASKS—

per yard
 Chintzes—Assorted 0.11 to 0.35
 Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.26 to 0.55
 Velvetens—18 in. 0.23 to 0.28

per dozen
 Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.75 to 1.00

WOOLLENS—

per yard
 Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops 0.75 to 2.50
 German 0.65 to 1.00
 Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths 1.25 to 5.50

per piece
 Long Ells—Scarlet, 7-10 lbs. 6.90 to 9.50
 Assorted 7.05 to 9.65

Camlets—Assorted 13.50 to 36.00
 Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches } 13.00 to 21.00
 Assorted "

Orleans—Plain, 31 in. 10.00 to —

per pair
 Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. 4.80 to 5.00
 Fine quality 1.25 to 1.85

METALS—

per picul
 Iron—Nail Rod 4.30 to —
 Square, Flat Round Bar (Eng.) 4.30 to —
 Swedish Bar 4.35 to —
 Small Round Rod 4.65 to —
 Hoop ½ to 1½ in. 6.20 to —
 Wire, 16/25 oz. 6.50 to —
 Wire Rope, Old 3.00 to —

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co., of Shanghai in their report, dated May 12th, say:—The astonishing successes attending the remarkable progress of the Japanese Army is the most interesting feature of the week under review, inasmuch as it is likely to have an important bearing on this trade. There is little doubt about the reported landing on the Peninsular above Port Arthur and Dalny, thus cutting off those ports from Russia's base of operations, but the later rumours that Newchwang has been evacuated needs confirmation. The Natives are inclined to believe in it; but until more definite news comes to hand it will not be acted on. It may possibly be only a repetition of the tactics we became familiar with towards the end of last year! Steamers are being held in readiness to go up if the news should prove true, and we understand a considerably reduced rate is now quoted by the Insurance Offices against war risk. Steamers are loading there with produce for the Southern Ports without much difficulty, and the demand for tonnage continues. Of course as the port is in the sphere of operations, even if it is evacuated by the Russians, certain restrictions might be put on the shipment of cargo by the Japanese, so there is likely to be considerable uncertainty and delay before trade could be resumed freely. The prospect of a demand seems to have a restraining influence on holders of cargo here, not that there is any great amount of enquiry. Still offers have been declined that possibly might otherwise have been accepted, the trade of the week being confined almost entirely to a few hundred bales of 8.4-lbs. Grey Shirtings and about 3,500 bales American Sheetings and Drills. The market in Manchester has been somewhat irregular, and considerable business with this was pending when a demand for other markets than China appears to have sprung up and prevented the orders going through to a great extent, through we have heard of some comparatively cheap parcels being settled. Prices, however, are mostly at least five per cent. over rates current here, and although gradually becoming convinced that the advance must be paid, if goods are wanted for the Autumn trade, the dealers still hesitate to place their orders. Cotton in Liverpool has fluctuated somewhat since our last, advancing to 7.64d. at the close for Mid American, while the latest quotation for Egyptian is 8½d. The export is keeping very moderate. Manufacturers in the States have recently shown more disposition to court offers, though not willing to prejudice their sales for home consumption by making any very great concessions. However, for a fairly large quantity they have not been able to resist a comparatively low offer for Pepperell

Drills and Jeans, being the first transactions in standard makes that have gone through for some months. Offers are pending for a fair quantity of slightly lighter cloths, which seem likely to go through. The rise of nearly a penny in sterling rates has incidentally no doubt had something to do with the dullness of the market for spot cargo, though perhaps assisting somewhat in the forward transactions, such as they are. The market for imported yarns is very active, a large business being reported in both Indian and Japanese spinings at steady prices. We hear a fairly large quantity of the former have been bought in Hongkong by the dealers here. Cotton is firmer and more business is being done both for local consumption and export.

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 20th May.

Beans	\$4
Borax	\$17
Camphor (China).....	\$120
Cassia (First quality).....	\$21 @ 21½
" (Second ").....	\$14 @ 15
" Oil	\$167½
Cloves	\$20 @ 55
Fennel Seed Oil	\$330
Galangal	\$2½ @ 6
Glue	\$26
Grapes	\$16 @ 17
Ivory	\$200 @ 650
Kismis	\$10 @ 14
Olibanum	\$5 @ 25
Rosa Oil	\$60 @ 175
Saltpetre	\$9½ @ 10½
Sandal wood	\$27 @ 28
" Oil	\$300 @ 400
Senna Leaves.....	\$2 @ 4
Sugar Candy	\$10½ @ 10½
Vermilion	\$83 @ 87½
" (Formosa).....	\$—
Garlic	\$—
Wax.....	\$35 @ 40

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, 11th May.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul.
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 33.50
Do. seconds	29.00
Buffalo hides, best selected	20.00
Goatskins, untanned (chiefly white colour) ..	58.00
Buffalo Horns (average 3 lbs. each)	9.60
White China Grass (Wuchang and/or Poochi)	10.90
White China Grass (Sinshan and/or Chayu)	10.00
Green China Grass (Szechuen)	10.50
Jute	4.90
White Vegetable Tallow (Kinchow) ..	10.70
White Vegetable Tallow (Pingchow and/or Macheng) ..	10.40
White Vegetable Tallow (Mongyu) ..	11.00
Green Vegetable Tallow (Kiyu)	11.00
Animal Tallow	10.00
Gallnuts (usual shape)	19.00
Do. (Plum) do.	23.00
Tobacco, Tinschow	120.00
Black Bristles	20.00
Feathers (Grey and/or White Duck) ..	21.50
" " Wild Duck	3.20
Turmeric	4.50
Sesamum Seed	7.90
Sesamum Seed Oil	7.90
Vegetable Tallow Seed Oil	8.10
Wood Oil	9.00
Tea Oil	9.00

Per P. & O. steamer *Formosa*, sailed on 12th May. For Buenos Ayres:—75 packages tea. For London or Manchester:—208 bales tea. For London:—1,177 bales tea, 50 packages tea, 195 rolls mats and matting, 58 bales feathers, 43 cases chinaware, 12 cases woodware, 10 cases private effects, 3 cases milk, 2 cases curios, 2 cases cigars, 70 cases bristles.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 20th May.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/9½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/9½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight ..	1/10

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	225
Credits 4 months' sight	229

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	183½
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	43½
Credits, 60 days' sight	44½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	133½
Bank, on demand	134

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	133½
Bank, on demand	134

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	72
Private, 30 days' sight	72½

ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand

ON MANILA.—On demand

ON SINGAPORE.—On demand

ON BATAVIA.—On demand

ON HAIPHONG.—On demand

ON SAIGON.—On demand

ON BANGKOK.—On demand

SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate

GOLD LEAF, 130 fine, per tael

BAR SILVER, per oz.

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 20th May, 1904.—The activity reported in our last has continued throughout the past week, and a good general business has again been transacted at gradually improving rates.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled quiet but steady at \$665, with a few unimportant sales and probable further small buyers at the rate. London is slightly higher at £65, the last quotation to hand. Nationals are enquired for at \$38, but shares are obtainable at \$38½.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions are quiet with small sellers at \$550. North Chinas have sold at Tls. 65, and a few more shares are on offer at this figure. China Traders have been booked at \$59 and \$60. Cantons after sales at \$205 and \$210 are in further request at the latter figure. Yangtzes are still asked for at \$125.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue in request, and \$310 is now offered without attracting sellers. Chinas are also firmer, and after sales at \$84 and \$85 are in further request at the higher figure.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have suddenly jumped into favour owing to a report that the French subsidized steamers may shortly be withdrawn from the Canton River trade, and a large business has resulted at prices ranging between \$29 and \$31, the market closing with buyers at \$31. Indo-Chinas have also improved and after fair sales at \$108 and \$109 cash are in strong demand at \$110 to \$111 cash. Sales at \$108 to \$109 June, \$111 to \$112 August, \$113 September, and \$115, \$116 to \$117 December are also reported. China and Manilas have firmed up and can now be placed at \$22. Douglases are easier with sellers at \$5½. Star Ferries continue in request at \$32 and \$22 for the old and new issues respectively. Shell transports have declined to 26/6 sellers.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are quiet but steady at \$145. Luzons have declined to \$9 sellers.

MINING.—Raubas have been booked at \$7 and \$7½ and close in further request at \$7. Punjom preferences can be placed at 25 cents.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks are firmer with sales at \$210, \$211 and \$212, and probable further buyers at the latter rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves have again been in strong request, and sales at \$110, \$111 and \$112 are reported with further enquiries at \$112. Sales at \$115 and \$116 August have also been booked. New Amoy Docks continue quiet at \$30. Farnhams though quiet in the North are said to be in request locally at Tls. 150.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands after sales at \$157 and \$158 are on offer at \$159. Kowloon Lands are still enquired for at \$35, and West Points at the improved rate of \$57, the latter after sales at \$55. Hongkong Hotels have been booked at \$138 and more shares are procurable. Humphreys' Estates have advanced to \$1½ and \$4 for the old and new issues respectively with sales and further buyers. Shanghai Lands are quiet at Tls. 108.

COTTON MILLS.—No business is reported and quotations are unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have continued in active demand and extensive

sales have been booked at \$26½, \$27, and \$27½, the market closing firm with further buyers at \$27½. China Borneos are quiet at \$10. Watsons have receded to \$14½ sellers. Electrics (old) have been booked at \$13½ at which there are further buyers. Steam Waterboats have improved to \$16½ buyers, and Dairy Farms to \$14½ buyers. Powells are also firmer with buyers at \$10½.

MEMOS.—Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 25th instant. "Star" Ferry Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on 1st June, transfer books close on the 25th instant until the 1st June, both days inclusive.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID-UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai.....	\$125	{ \$665, buyers £65, L'don.
Natl. Bank of China.....		
A. Shares	28	\$38, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$38, buyers
Foun. Shares.....	21	\$10, buyers
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$550, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$60, sellers
North China.....	25	Tls. 65, sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$125, buyers
Canton.....	\$50	\$210, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$310, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$85.
Steamship Coys.—		
H., Canton and M.....	\$15	\$31, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$111, buyers
China and Manila.....	\$50	\$22, buyers
Douglas Steamship ..	\$50	\$35½, sellers
Star Ferry.....	\$10	\$32, buyers
Shell Transport and ..	\$5	\$21½, buyers
Trading Co.....	21	26/6, sellers
Do. pref. shares.....	210	£8. 10s.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$145.
Luzon Sugar.....	\$100	\$9, sellers
Mining—		
Punjom	\$11	50 cts., sellers
Do. Preference.....	\$1	25 cts., buyers
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$500.
Raubas	18/10d.	\$7.
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$212, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$112, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$30.
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 150, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$159, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$35, buyers
West Point Building ..	\$50	\$57, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$138, sales & sellers
Humphreys Estate.....	\$10	\$12½, buyers
S'hai Land Ins. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 50	Tls. 108.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 33, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25.
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 32½.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 170.
Hongkong	\$10	\$14½, sellers
Green Island Cement.....	\$10	\$27½, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$10.
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14½, sellers
Hongkong Electric ..	\$5	\$13½, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas.....	210	\$150.
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	{ \$140, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$48, sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$212½, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways.....	\$100	\$300.
Hk. Steam Water- ..	\$10	\$16½, buyers
Boat Co., Ltd.	\$6	\$14½, buyers
Dairy Farm	\$10	\$37, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	12/6	\$5, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	\$4	\$10½, buyers
United Asbestos	\$10	\$210, buyers
Do.....	\$5	\$1, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.....	\$10	\$9, sales
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$7½, buyers
Watkins Ltd.....	\$10	\$5.
China Light & Power ..	\$10	\$10½, buyers
Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$50.
Powell, Ltd.....	\$10	\$10, nominal
Shanghai and Hong- ..	\$50	\$200.
kong Dyeing and ..	\$10	\$9.75, sellers
Cleaning Co., Ltd.	\$10	
Canton, Hongkong Ice ..	\$500	
Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited.....	\$10	
Pippine Tobacco ..		
Trust Co., Ltd.		

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 20th May.—There has been very little demand for tonnage during the past fortnight, and freights coastwise have declined. From Saigon to this, 20 cents last, and no further inquiry for prompt shipment. The recent typhoon at Saigon caused considerable damage to mills and lighters. To Philippines, one settlement at 33 cents. To Japan, 40 cents has been paid for June shipment. Bangkok to Hongkong, on prompt steamers wanted. Newchwang to Canton, after fixtures at 75 cents and 90 cents, the rates dropped to 45 cents; to Amoy, 70 cents last; to Swatow, 50 cents. According to latest reports the Russians still occupy Newchwang. Coal freight's are weak. From Japan to this, \$1.40 to \$1.00; to Hongay, \$2.50; to Singapore, \$2.00. Hongay to this, \$1.75. The following are the settlements:—

Phuyen—French steamer, 1,298 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongay, \$2.50 per ton.

An Indo-China S. N. Co.'s steamer, Hongay to Hongkong, \$2 per ton.

Emma Luyken—German steamer, 1,200 tons, Hongay to Hongkong, \$1.75 per ton.

Plitvice—Austrian steamer, 2,487 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.70 per ton.

Dagmar—Norwegian steamer, 333 tons, three trips, Touro to Canton, \$2.50 per ton.

Bried—Norwegian steamer, 645 tons, Rajang to Hongkong, \$11,000 in full.

Carl Menzell—German steamer, 960 tons, Newchwang to Amoy, 70 cents per picul; Ch-foo, 30 cents per picul.

Nanyang—German steamer, 1,050 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 75 cents per picul.

Decima—German steamer, 794 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 60 cents per picul.

Quang Nam—French steamer, 710 tons, Kwong-chauwan to Penang, 27 cents per picul.

Dott—Norwegian steamer, 629 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 35 cents per picul.

Sishan—British steamer, 515 tons, Saigon to one port Philippines, 38 cents per picul.

Ivydene—British steamer, 2,277 tons, Saigon to Niigata, 40 cents per picul.

Gaea—Norwegian steamer, 624 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 22 cents per picul.

Fausang—British steamer, 1,410 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 21 cents per picul.

Shansi—British steamer, 1,228 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Shaoxing—British steamer, 1,307 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

FREIGHTS.

From Hankow per Conference Steamers.—To London and Northern Continental ports:—Tea 52/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. General cargo 52/6 per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds 47/6 per ton of 20 cwt. To Marseille and Havre:—General 43/- net per ton of 40 cubic feet. Seeds 47/6 net per ton of 20 cwt. To New York (overland):—Tea 14 G\$ cents per lb. gross. To New York (via Suez):—35/- per ton of 40 cubic feet. To Shanghai:—Tea, Tails 1.80 per ton of 13 half-chests. To Shanghai:—General, Tails 1.80 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

May—

ARRIVALS.

- 15, Polynesian, French str., from Shanghai.
- 16, Achilles, British str., from Shanghai.
- 16, Adana, British str., from Penarth.
- 16, Australien, French str., from Marseilles.
- 16, Binh Thuan, French str., from Saigon.
- 16, Decima, German str., from Saigon.
- 16, Indrapura, British str., from Portland.
- 16, Iolo, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
- 16, Korea, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
- 16, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
- 16, Petrarch, German str., from Newchwang.
- 16, Phra Nang, German str., from Bangkok.
- 16, Sanda, British str., from Cardiff.
- 16, Tientsin, British str., from Bombay.
- 16, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
- 16, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
- 16, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
- 17, Carl Menzell, German str., from Canton.
- 17, China, German str., from Saigon.
- 17, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Cant n.
- 17, Foyle, British str., from Moji.
- 17, Heathforl, British str., from Moji.
- 17, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
- 17, Laertes, British str., from Saigon.
- 17, Maroa, British str., from Cardiff.

- 17, Paoting, British str., from Canton.
- 17, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Canton.
- 18, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
- 18, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
- 18, Eclipse, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
- 18, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
- 18, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.
- 18, Halaban, Du'ch str., from Tientsin.
- 18, Hangsan, British str., from Shanghai.
- 18, Hoilao, French str., from Haiphong.
- 18, Ikal, British str., from Cape Town.
- 18, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
- 18, Loksang, British str., from Bangkok.
- 18, Marburg, German str., from Shanghai.
- 18, Mathilde, German str., from Swatow.
- 18, Ness, British str., from Moji.
- 18, Sirius, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
- 18, Tean, British str., from Shanghai.
- 18, Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Macassar.
- 18, Batavia, German str., from Bangkok.
- 19, Chwanshan, British str., from Bangkok.
- 19, Coromandel, British str., from Bombay.
- 19, Dardanus, British str., from Liverpool.
- 19, Edendale, British str., from Surabaya.
- 19, Elaine, British str., from Barry.
- 19, Kansu, British str., from Canton.
- 19, Kowloon, German str., from Canton.
- 19, Ujina, British str., from Rangoon.

May—

DEPARTURES.

- 16, Binondo, American str., for Manila.
- 16, Chunra, British str., for Shanghai.
- 16, Eclipse, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
- 16, Elg, Norwegian str., for Saigon.
- 16, Glenartney, British str., for Kobe.
- 16, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
- 16, Hong Bee, British str., for Amoy.
- 16, Pundna, British str., for Amoy.
- 16, Shansi, British str., for Amoy.
- 16, Signal, German str., for Swatow.
- 16, Sirius, British cruiser, for Mirs Bay.
- 16, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
- 17, Achilles, British str., for Liverpool.
- 17, Adana, British str., for Weihaiwei.
- 17, Australien, British str., for Yokohama.
- 17, Australien, French str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Changsha, British str., for Yokohama.
- 17, Hinsang, British str., for Hongay.
- 17, Kampot, French str., for Newchwang.
- 17, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 17, Maroa, British str., for Sasebo.
- 17, Polynesian, French str., for Europe.
- 17, Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
- 17, Theodor Wille, Ger. str., for Yokohama.
- 17, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
- 17, Whampoa, British str., for Shanghai.
- 17, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
- 17, Wuchang, British str., for Iloilo.
- 17, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
- 18, Calchas, British str., for Vancouver.
- 18, Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 18, G. v. Bylandt, Dutch str., for Yokohama.
- 18, Heathburn, British str., for Moji.
- 18, J. B. Leeds, British str., for Manila.
- 18, Kaifong, British str., for Manila.
- 18, Paknam, German str., for Bangkok.
- 18, Singan, British str., for Niigpo.
- 18, Tientsin, British str., for Shanghai.
- 18, Tritos, German str., for Swatow.
- 19, Bergenbus, Norwegian str., for Batavia.
- 19, Brinz Huel, British str., for New York.
- 19, Carl Menzell, German str., for Chefoo.
- 19, Chowtai, German str., for Bangkok.
- 19, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
- 19, Hangsan, British str., for Canton.
- 19, Mathilde, German str., for Hoilow.
- 19, Taifu, German str., for Mauritius.
- 19, Tientsin, British str., for Kobe.
- 19, Ujina, British str., for Yokohama.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Polynesian*, for Hongkong, from Kobe, Messrs. Andersen, Harris, and Kopp; from Shanghai, Mrs. Robins, Mrs. Vedagomsky, Mrs. Carmen, Mrs. Mabel Williams, Messrs. Barbon, Kerr, Hazelaire, Milman, Jones, Boyer, A. Monro, Tanaka, A. Busgany, Sasson Kodranin, and Dallas Co.; for Saigon, from Kobe, Mr. Yehata; for Singapore, from Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. Pearce, Major Bird, and Sisters Ste. Anatolie Lannay and Ste. Habeline; from Kobe, Messrs. G. Pocchetti and Schudler; from Shanghai, Mr. and Miss MacBain, Messrs. Freeman, Galters, Lorenzo, Borelli, Lorenzo, and Festero; for Batavia, from Yokohama, Mr. H. Gomes; from Shanghai, Mrs. Anastariou, Messrs. P. Castelli, Sabbione, and Kirpichoff; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Mr. Suto; from

Shanghai, Mrs. Genisty, Mrs. Bennecin, Messrs. Cherathdas, Silberman, and Otto; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Mr. Baba; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Gallay and 3 children, Mrs. Jammain, Mrs. Hespel and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Crendel and 2 children, Messrs. Prahl, Magnin, Cricke, Goumarre, Leroux, Lange, Jorgensen, McCallum, Nils Nielsen, Sudhoff, Seifer, Fisher, Schalz, Kohler, Riederer, Herrmann, Gamoli, and Servavin.

Per *Australien*, for Hongkong, from Port Said, Messrs. T. Heedge and Perry; from Colombo, Messrs. Baucha, Peltigara, and Karanjia; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Phillips Stanley, Mrs. Neville, Mrs. Empson, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Lea, Mrs. Gedder, Mrs. Nightingale and infant, Mrs. Greenbury, Mrs. Edden, Mrs. Norman, Messrs. H. Denny, Dunlop, de Faria, Neville, Peachey, Greeves, Driscoll, Smith, and Rault; from Saigon, Messrs. Pierre and Jacques Bacot; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mrs. Rocher and 2 daughters, Mrs. Loutatour, Mr. and Mrs. Leyn, Messrs. Letourneur, Boirisky, and Perrier Lebast; from Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. Litofsky; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Joseph, Messrs. Bakara and O. Benjamin; from Singapore, Mrs. Lantock, Messrs. Hilster, Davabshy, Djajivan, and David Kildermann; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Mr. Zenzamo Kahn; from Colombo, Messrs. Mariskawa and Mamporia; from Singapore, Messrs. Wooner, Matsuda, and Yamatsuda; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mrs. Ruegg, Mrs. Brilinski, Messrs. A. Bickart, Brilinski, Bensrite, Sackin, Lem Joo Yamada and K. Hanoure; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. Goldstein, Messrs. C. Woodhouse, Yasuda, and Kate; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Bonarelli, and Mr. Dowes Dekker; from Saigon, Mrs. Ohl and infant.

Per *Korea*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. J. G. Moir, Miss Moir, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Clinton, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Burrus and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Gegg, Mrs. A. Cotton, Misses E. L. Dovan and Clara Thatcher, Capt. E. G. Curry, Drs. H. W. Boyd and P. Y. Soong, Messrs. J. W. Bulles, Venn Hughes, L. H. Morris, C. Schmid, P. V. Davies, A. C. Durand, Ellis Kadoorie, P. H. Loucks, C. T. Briggs, H. W. Bears, S. Minami, J. R. Sloan, J. W. Jenks, S. K. A. Sze, and Johns Lotta.

Per *Coromandel*, for Hongkong, from London, Mr. and Mrs. Moon, Lieuts. F. M. Riadore and A. J. M. Grieve, Messrs. E. W. Stedman, J. Yates, G. H. Martin, J. Bowmaker, S. J. Webb, S. Wild, and S. H. Upton; from Bombay, Messrs. A. T. A. Ebrahim, J. N. Katrak, H. M. Willmott, and A. Gale; from Calcutta, Messrs. S. C. Gordon and J. C. Macdonald; from Singapore, Lieut. Chandler, Messrs. Bourke, R. N. McGardell, H. C. Cheek, Fujii, P. Roza, and S. C. Halleen; for Manila, from London, Mrs. Penny; for Shanghai, from London, Mrs. L. M. Cooper, Messrs. D. L. Pianos and M. O'Neill; from Brindisi, Mr. J. M. Flower; from Singapore, Engr.-Comdr. Burnett; for Kobe, from London, Mr. T. H. Ogg; for Yokohama, from London, Misses V. and C. Mosley; from Gibraltar, Mr. A. B. Lemas.

DEPARTED.

Per *Polynesian*, for Saigon, Capt. H. Kret, Messrs. G. Naroomal, P. V. Davies, and Alex. Lomé; for Colombo, Mrs. Saunders and daughter, Messrs. G. Pasomul and J. K. Doshi; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. Samson Gumier, Reva Joseph Frain and Charus Bertrand, Messrs. Antonio Antunes, I. Ledward, R. W. Adamson, B. E. Thomas, H. F. Compton, Louis Réan, Henry C. Hookyn, F. E. Hemermoy, R. F. Friedel, Jose Franco, J. McAlinsh, and Leslie A. Weeks.

Per *Australien*, for Shanghai, Mrs. E. Willcocks, Mrs. L. Littledale, Mr. and Mrs. Phillips Stanley, Mr. and Mrs. Raul Quintos, Dr. and Mrs. O. N. Morrison, Mrs. Neville, Mrs. Wiechel, Mrs. Grimbury, Mrs. Empson, Mr. and Mrs. R. McGregor, Mrs. S. T. Shibbeth, Rev. P. Jean Marie Carre, Misses Nightingale, Hamilton, Lee, and Gedder, Messrs. Peachey, Driscoll, Smith, Moraman, C. F. A. Bird, S. Blumentel, Donoh Kine, Plaksine, Neville, Greeves, Rault, Eden, Chalagon, N. Sternberg, Festars, Smidt, and Ozecsky; for Kobe, Mr. Lefevre.

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